

TRAVEL
Pages 10-11
High Adventure

PEOPLE
Moscow remembers
Page 13

SPORT
Pages 15-18
National identity

GRASSROOTS
Taking the roof off Liverpool
Page 21

WEEKEND MONEY
Pages 24-26
Free unit trust fact sheet

Election plunges Greece into crisis

From George Coats in Athens

Greece was thrust deeper into the worst political crisis since the 1960s yesterday, when the major opposition party refused to recognise the constitutionality of Parliament's election of a new head of state.

Far from removing the president from the political arena, the election of the government-backed and sole candidate, Mr Christos Sartzetakis, by the minimum parliamentary margin required has pushed Mr Sartzetakis into the centre of a political and constitutional confrontation.

Mr Sartzetakis accepted his election as President, and pledged to serve the country impartially "as President of all the Greeks." The speaker

Leader comment, page 14

of Parliament, Mr Michael Staphanides, told reporters waiting outside the building: "He has accepted to oversee the country and pledges to serve Greece in an objective and impartial fashion."

The atmosphere of the special parliamentary session was already heated before balloting began: when deputies of the conservative opposition New Democracy Party protested violently against the use of coloured ballot papers.

This led to a heated confrontation between the Prime Minister, Mr Papandreu, and the new Democracy leader, Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, during which Mr Papandreu questioned both the constitution, which he stigmatised as "one party", and the constitutional requirement for a secret ballot in the presidency, saying that it was "unacceptable that such an important decision or vote be secret."

But New Democracy denounced the result, which gave a victory to Mr Sartzetakis, because it was achieved with the vote of Mr Yiannis Alevras, the former president of Parliament, who assumed the role of acting head of state when Mr Karamanlis resigned prematurely earlier this month.

New Democracy claimed that in his new position Mr Alevras could not exercise the rights of a parliamentarian, but the Government, reversing its earlier intention to take the advice of constitutional experts on the question, brought it to Parliament, where its majority ensured that Mr Alevras was enfranchised.

Mr Sartzetakis needed 150 votes yesterday to be elected, or three-fifths support, and he got just that with Mr Alevras's vote.

The result left people in central Athens visibly confused. Crowds of government supporters waited tensely as the balloting took place, and later gathered around kiosks waiting for special editions of the newspaper.

Heated discussions and isolated scuffles broke out.

But the stakes for the Government were high.

Turn to back page, col. 7

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Turn to back page, col. 7



Christos Sartzetakis — at centre of row

Maori to be governor of New Zealand

From Ian Templeton in Wellington

The Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, in a break with tradition, yesterday announced the appointment of the outspoken Anglican Archbishop of New Zealand, Paul Reeves, as Governor-General. He will be the first person of Maori descent to hold the post.

The archbishop, aged 53, is a controversial figure because of

his liberal views on social and political issues. He opposes nuclear proliferation, an issue which has brought the Lange Labour government into sharp conflict with the United States.

He belongs to the Te Atiawa tribe of Taranaki, and his ancestors lost land after wars with the white settlers. With the Maori sense of grievance over land a touchy political issue, the appointment could signal a fresh effort to heal wounds.

Archbishop Reeves, who is also Bishop of Auckland, is the first Anglican archbishop to hold the post. He takes over the largely symbolic position in succession to Sir David Beattie in November and will give up his church posts in September.

Mr Lange said the archbishop, son of a taxi driver, had had a distinctive New Zealand career. "The characteristic of dignity which has marked his whole career

could not be more fittingly expressed than in the office of Governor-General of New Zealand," he said.

Mr Lange flies to Africa today on a five-country visit aimed at repairing relations with black countries damaged by sporting ties between New Zealand and South Africa.

He leaves immediately after making a final plea to the New Zealand Rugby Union council to abandon plans for

the All Blacks to tour South Africa.

But he is expected to be in the air when the union announces whether or not it will send the All Blacks to South Africa in August. Whatever the decision, it will affect his reception in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

The Prime Minister will tell the Rugby Union today that the tour could be disastrous for New Zealand.

Football Association chiefs react angrily to date switch 'order'

Government's anti-hooligan move backfires

By David McKie, David Lacey and Paul Keel

The Government's first initiative on controlling soccer violence immediately ran into opposition from politicians and the football authorities yesterday, who reacted angrily to the sports minister's attempt to change the date of the England-Scotland fixture.

The request from the minister, Mr Neil Macfarlane, that the Football Association should reconsider the timing of the friendly at Wembley on the May 25 Bank Holiday was being greeted last night as a meddling order "from Downing Street which had achieved nothing in terms of solving the problem of crowd violence and had cast an unwarranted slur on the reputation of Scottish fans."

Yesterday's furore, which began badly for Monday's meeting between Mrs Thatcher and the FA to discuss ways of curbing soccer hooliganism, arose over the announcement that the May 25 fixture is to be switched from Wembley to Hampden Park, Glasgow.

Although the Government was insisting that the move was an intervention to avert a riot, it left the FA with little choice.

Earlier this week Mr Macfarlane sent a letter to the FA in which he wrote: "The Government is extremely concerned that the current timing of this fixture increases the risk of disorder and this is something which the Prime Minister is also likely to raise with you."

It was the Scottish Football Association which solved the FA's dilemma by offering to stage the fixture at Hampden Park, but neither they nor their English counterparts were happy about the matter yesterday.

Mr Ted Croker, the FA secretary, said the wording of the minister's letter had left them with no choice. "We certainly have no joy in making this decision. It has been forced upon us and is a very sad testimony to the state of the world we live in."

Mr Ernie Walker, secretary

David Lacey, page 17

of the Scottish FA, said of the letter: "It could be construed as an instruction rather than a request."

The Government clearly feared a repeat of the trouble which marred the 1977 game at Wembley when Scottish fans went on the rampage. But it caused offence by overlooking the Scottish fans' good record for behaviour over the past six years and appearing to shift the current problem of English supporters' hooliganism.

The political reaction to the Government's action was swift. Lord Hailsham, leader of the House of Lords, said: "The shadow sports minister, described it as 'totally inexplicable'."

He said: "I think it is one of the most extraordinary things I've come across for a long, long time. What the Government is doing is surrendering. It is running away and declaring no-go areas for football matches."

Speaking on BBC Radio yesterday, Mr Howell said the Government had no right to interfere in the way that it had. "It is not the Government's job to say we can not have sport in England, we can only have it in Scotland."

Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East, described the move as a gross over-reaction and "an insult to Scottish fans." He said they were paying the price for the Government's crackdown on English soccer violence.

There was little comfort for the Government from its own backbenches. Mr Richard Holt MP for Langborough, said he was appalled by the action. "I think the Government has made a mistake and should reconsider the position."

I shall write to the sports minister Neil Macfarlane, asking him to reconsider the decision. I want to know what caused this — whether it was pressure from the police, the football authorities, or is it merely a ministerial whim?"

In response to the protests from Mr Alan Stewart, the Scottish office minister responsible for sport, said in the House that the Government was not moving the fixture to avert a riot, but to ensure that it was not a disaster.

The change of venue was not intended to reflect on Scottish supporters, whose recent behaviour has been exemplary. It is an acknowledgement of the behaviour of Scottish football fans that the match has been transferred to Hampden, he said.

Mr Charles Brent, chairman of the Scottish division of the National

Turn to back page, col. 2

Gaol soccer thugs — Brittan

By David McKie

The Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, yesterday called on magistrates to hand out custodial sentences for violent offences at or near football grounds. He also suggested that where such sentences were not appropriate, magistrates should ensure that offenders were kept away from the terraces on Saturday afternoons.

In a speech read to a meeting of magistrates at Plymouth by his wife — Mr Brittan had been unable to attend because of the hijack incident at Heathrow — the Home Secretary referred to the advice given by the Court of Appeal to lower courts.

This said: "Unless there are exceptional mitigating circumstances — and it is not easy to see what they could be — youths between the ages of 17 and 21 who are convicted of any offence involving violence towards police officers and others trying to maintain order, or to spectators who are not themselves involved, should receive a custodial sentence."

In most cases a short detention centre order should be adequate, but if a weapon had been used or a disabling injury inflicted, the court was told, a longer sentence was justified.

In less serious cases, where a custodial sentence was not necessary, magistrates should bear in mind the basic preventive role of keeping the offenders away from future matches, the Home Secretary suggested.

Where the case was adjourned and the offender granted bail, the court could impose conditions requiring him not to attend matches and to report to a police station at the relevant times. "This will often be a sensible condition to impose," he said.

For those convicted, in the case of young offenders, there was the attendance centre sentence.

Turn to back page, col. 3

Next week

Monday

FAKLANDS FUTURE
For us, what the conflict is about is the self determination of ourselves. Agenda seeks a constitutional alternative that is both practical and principled.

FAMILY FABLES
David Leavitt dreaded coming out. But the New Yorker got more fan mail than it had for a decade. Arts Guardian on a remarkable literary debut.

WEIGHTY MATTERS
The fatty fallacy exposed — at last big can be beautiful. Guardian Women reports and...

Tuesday

meets Susie Orbach, who turned fat into a feminist issue and took on traditional therapists

CLASS CONFLICTS
How to assess teachers when no one agrees on what makes a good one? Expand and discuss. Education Guardian.

Wednesday

FLASHY PARADISE
The EEC could turn marshlands into a conservationist's delight. Society Tomorrow dreams up a plan.

ASSIGNMENT SOHO
Guardian Women picture the community behind the bright lights.

STAGE STRUCK
Chicago is bursting at the theatrical seams. Arts Guardian reports.

TGWU faces more poll-rigging protests

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

The Transport and General Workers' Union — struggling to contain the crisis caused by a proven case of ballot-rigging in one of its branches — now faces a rash of fresh allegations covering more branches.

The new complaints of ballot-rigging in the election to choose Mr Moss Evans successor as TGWU general secretary involve branches in London and Liverpool as well as in the union's troubled south-western area, where complaints in the Bristol 3/174 branch — with 1,700 members — were recently upheld.

The investigation in Bristol has caused considerable dis-

quiet within the union, although Mr Evans has insisted that it is an isolated case. Since then, further complaints have come to light in one of the union's north London bus branches.

In Liverpool, Mr Alec Kitson, the union's deputy general secretary, has been holding informal talks with members who have expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which the ballot was conducted there.

Mr Evans was interviewed this week by members of Bristol fraud squad in connection with the union's inquiry into the way in which the ballot was held in 3/174 branch. The inquiry began after individual members of the union informed the police of their

disquiet. The police are still continuing their inquiries and were shown documents which are reported in today's Guardian.

Mr Evans, who is due to retire in June, is anxious to leave the union in good order without these investigations hanging over it. But it could be some time before they are completed.

At the moment, there is no suggestion of a re-run of the general secretary's ballot. By themselves, the misdemeanours proved in Bristol had no effect on the outcome of the election, in which Mr Ron Todd, the union's national organiser, defeated Mr George Wright, the Welsh regional secretary, by nearly 40,000 votes.

Investigations into the new complaints will be held. If they are sustained, pressure within the union would begin to build up for a new election. A re-run election would be unprecedented. The TGWU prides itself in its democracy. In elections of this nature, involving as they do a potential of nearly 1.5 million members, tampering with the ballot papers is not only possible, but happens.

Mr Evans has appealed to any member who feels that the ballot was not properly conducted to come forward and say that any complaint will be fully investigated. Apart from the Bristol case, and the incident at the North London bus garage, he says that so far only one other complaint had been received. That was from a member of the union's agricultural workers' section in Kent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Don't give up pill'

A CANCER specialist yesterday said that a WHO report on the link between the pill and cervical cancer confirmed earlier warnings, but he warned women not to risk unwanted pregnancy by giving up the pill. Back page.

Grand National

FORTY runners set off this afternoon in an effort to land the first prize of £54,314 in the Seagram Grand National at Aintree. It is estimated that over £40 million will be wagered on the outcome. Page 15.

'Cut red tape'

AS Spain and Portugal were admitted to the EEC, Mrs Thatcher yesterday spoke out in Brussels on the need to cut red tape in the community. Page 6.

Clocks forward

BRITISH summer time begins at 1am on Sunday, when clocks should be put forward one hour.

The weather

CLOUDY with rain at times. Details, back page.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE			
Austria	25p	France	30p
Belgium	25p	Germany	30p
Denmark	25p	Italy	30p
Finland	25p	Netherlands	30p
Greece	25p	Spain	30p
Ireland	25p	Sweden	30p
Portugal	25p	Switzerland	30p

Pressure rises for Nacods strike ballot

By Paul Heyland and John Ardill

Pressure was growing yesterday for a strike ballot of the pit deputies union Nacods over the closures of Bedwas colliery in South Wales and Frances in Scotland, and National Coal Board attitudes following the miners' strike.

A call by the union's South Wales area for a national ballot

£492,000 loans for NUM, page 2

will be considered by the national executive on Monday. The South Wales area wants a ballot over its claims that the NCB is closing Bedwas pit near Caerphilly without proper consultation. The pit's NUM branch has accepted closure against branch officials' advice. Nacods believes, following an NCB letter on Wednesday, that

the board intends to close pits damaged by neglect during the miners' strike without consultation.

The NCB says Nacods misinterpreted its letter which was sent to all mining unions. On Thursday Nacods general secretary, Mr Peter McNestry, failed to get a High Court injunction preventing closures until an already-agreed new review procedure is introduced.

Mr McNestry said yesterday the new procedure was being discredited in spite of assurances by the Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, and NCB chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor, that it was sacrosanct. "We, the nation, and Parliament have been hoodwinked," he said.

The letter said pit problems caused by the strike were being urgently assessed. "It is clear that in many locations damage has occurred which will take months to recover. In some circumstances, where the cost of recovery cannot be supported by a viable long-term future, the damage may be judged to be permanent and irreparable."

While detailed assessments are being made, the board is taking immediate action to reduce costs by means of voluntary and consequential redundancy. The transfer scheme will also form part of the post-strike recovery strategy.

"Management will make every endeavour to give as detailed an assessment as practicable about the state of individual pits."

Turn to back page, col. 2

Turn to back page, col. 3

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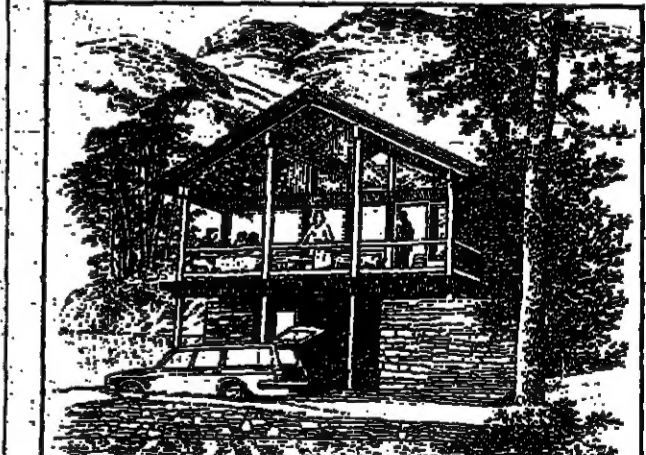
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...and why can't a man be more like a woman?

By David Rose

THE TROUBLE with men is that they need to become more like real women, a conference was told yesterday.

Introducing the Men, Sex and Relationships Conference, organised by the Family Planning Association, Mr Paul Bostang, a Labour member of the Greater London Council, said that men should undergo "an androgyny shift".

Mr Bostang told the conference that he personally was a "man" but was following his example men could "overcome the barriers of masculine and feminine stereotypes" and explore ways of being "both tough and tender", although not, he was at pains to stress, in the manner intended by Dr David Owen.

Mr Bostang's initial address set the tone for the proceedings, as one by one each speaker affirmed their own androgyny.

Introducing a video intended to be shown to young "predominantly working class" people, actors Mr John Alderton and his wife, Mrs Pauline Collins, said that they had fallen in love because he was good at weeping. According to Mr Alderton, "the chemicals in tears are so good for you, they're too good to be left for only the women."

Dr James Hemming, a psychologist said that it was not true that men had uncontrollable animal urges: certain African tribes were so well adjusted sexually that premarital pregnancy and rape were unknown.

The fault was modern social conditioning, which generated "child molestation, gang rape, incest, necrophilia, sexual sadism and other perversions which are not found in simple societies."

Later, however, Dr Hemming seemed to take a different line in the nature versus nurture argument. Biology did suggest, "that men and women are programmed differently for their sexual roles" so men were often satisfied by desire fulfilled alone, whereas women "usually need to feel loved as well as desired."

But, he insisted, Elizabeth Taylor had been right in saying that tenderness and "givingness" were a man's sexiest qualities. Now, in what Dr Hemming called "a post-prandial society," it was time for "the union of two people on all planes, total togetherness, the androgynous relationship, which is the only satisfying relationship which has the capacity to ensure."

How could this be achieved? Dr Hemming said: "I cannot go into all that this involves, but it certainly requires plenty of working together."

Young men should, for example, learn to understand women better: "They know nothing about the possible emotional correlates of menstruation, nor that gentleness and understanding during a period of premenstrual tension can profoundly deepen a relationship."

Cook's complaint exposed union poll-rigging

Keith Harper reports on TGWU documents revealing a seamy side to branch ballot for top post

AN ISOLATED complaint by a cook at Colston Grammar School in Bristol has led to one of the most intensive investigations into ballot rigging ever carried out by the Trades Union Congress and General Workers' Union.

The investigation, which covered the conduct of the ballot in last year's election to find a new TGWU general secretary, is revealed in internal union documents which have been received by the Guardian.

The inquiry now involves the fraud squad which has been carrying out investigations into how the ballot was conducted.

The Bristol complaint was made by Mrs J. Andrews, who wrote to the TGWU's regional secretary, Mr Ron Nethercott, saying that during the period of the ballot her membership card had been stamped GS indicating that she had voted for the general secretary's position.

Her letter went on: "I can assure you that I have not voted in this ballot. I am also aware of several other members in the same branch who have their cards marked GS and they have not voted either. I believe the credibility of this union is sinking to all-time low. Perhaps you would investigate the conduct of this ballot and take any necessary action."

Mr Nethercott's letter to Mrs Andrews said that the regional committee, through interviews with shop stewards, established that a minimum of 12 ballot boxes was returned to the TGWU regional office in Bristol. These boxes, and possibly

TGWU's regional committee in a series of confidential interviews, examined the returns of the 1,732 members attached to 374 branch and was satisfied that the union's rules were breached.

The immediate action was to declare void voting in the branch for the general secretary's election which was eventually won by Mr Ron Todd, who is due to succeed Mr Evans in June.

The events in Bristol by themselves would have made no difference to the overall results in which Mr Todd defeated his nearest rival, Mr George Wright, by nearly 40,000 votes.

When the inquiry was completed Mr Nethercott wrote to Mr Evans to say that there was no doubt that all the cards were stamped irregularly. The letter from Mr Nethercott says that those responsible were Mr Paul Chamberlain, a local official, and Ms Ann Sellers, a branch official. "On different occasions they have accused one another of being responsible, on other occasions have admitted doing it themselves," states Mr Nethercott's letter.

His letter says that the regional committee, through interviews with shop stewards, established that a minimum of 12 ballot boxes was returned to the TGWU regional office in Bristol. These boxes, and possibly



From left, Moss Evans, TGWU general secretary, Ron Todd, general secretary-designate, and the man he beat in the election, which is now the centre of controversy, George Wright

more, says the letter, found themselves into Mr Chamberlain's office, but only four were handed to the scrutineers. "Certainly, therefore, a minimum of eight boxes went missing."

Mr Nethercott goes on to say that on the second day of the ballot another official, Mr John Swain, was seen bringing in the ballot boxes to the scrutineers. "These boxes should not have been in his possession but in the strongroom." According to Mr Nethercott's letter, Mr Swain later admitted that some of the boxes were opened.

In a further development, Mr Geoff Wood, a member of the TGWU office staff, was assisting on the first

floor of the building when Mr John Swain appeared with the ballot boxes. Mr Nethercott's letter to Mr Evans said that Mr Swain opened them in front of Mr Wood, and removed ballot papers which he then commenced to replace with papers he had marked.

The main sufferer of the Bristol ballot appeared to be Mr George Wright. Mr Todd's main opponent. According to a statement from Mr Wood in the documents, Mr Wood confirmed that Mr Swain had entered an office and removed ballot papers marked in favour of Mr George Wright.

The statement from Mr Wood said that Mr Swain proceeded to mark the ballot papers in favour of Mr Todd and placed them in a ballot box. "When Brother Wood questioned Brother Swain, Brother Swain told him to mind his own business and with obscenities told him it was their democracy and to keep his mouth shut."

Mr Nethercott's letter explains that the issue came to light when several members noticed their membership cards had been issued with the GS stamp on them. Action has since been taken against Mr Sellers, Mr Swain and Mr Chamberlain following an internal inquiry and Mr Nethercott's letter says the matter should be dealt

with very firmly in order to re-establish the credibility of the union in the region.

The documents show that the three accused of misconduct in the branch wrote to Mr Evans after the regional committee had completed its inquiry and before the TGWU executive committee considered the matter. Mr Chamberlain's letter to Mr Evans said that at no stage in the regional inquiry were accusations made against him. He said he made it clear that he had condoned the pre-stamping of the new membership cards with the GS stamp. "3/174 branch has some 1,700 members scattered in over 500 workplaces. I accepted the pre-stamping as a short cut."

His letter agrees that this was a breach of the union's rules. "But I will not accept that there was anything more sinister behind it than the sheer administrative difficulty of conducting a ballot in a large and scattered branch." He goes on: "When things go wrong, it is easy to point the finger. However, I doubt whether many branches would have stood up to microscopic examination. Ballot boxes were not checked enough stamps were issued."

In a similar letter to Mr Evans, Mr Swain said that he had never done anything to bring the union in to disrepute. He agreed that he had been involved in the general secretary's ballot and had offered assistance in making his car available. He had delivered and collected ballot forms.

"This I did by contacting the shop stewards at the workplace. Some of the workplaces did not return the documentation with a ballot box, but had just used the envelope, which also included all the other bits and pieces."

Mr Sellers' letter to Mr Evans is short. It simply places on record that she had never said to any individual or any group of people "anything that would imply that Mr Swain did anything wrong in the GS's ballot."

After the regional inquiry an examination of the matter by the TGWU executive committee found that Mr Swain was banned from holding office, and Mr Swain and Mr Chamberlain were expelled from the union. They appealed against this decision but after a three-hour appeal the matter was not upheld.

Tribunal cash deposit idea angers Labour

By David Simpson,

Business Correspondent

The Shadow Employment Secretary, Mr John Prescott, has condemned a suggestion that people claiming unfair dismissal should place a deposit with an industrial tribunal.

He claimed that the move would deter employees from seeking justice. "These proposals are preparing the way for more attacks on the rights of young people," he said.

Mr Chris Smith, the Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, described the idea as outrageous and promised that the Opposition would "go in with all guns blazing" if the Government attempted to introduce it.

The cash would be refunded or forfeited at the discretion of the tribunal.



Lord Young: concerted action

The suggestion was among a number of measures aimed at reducing the red tape to which businesses are subjected, in a report, *Barriers to Business*, launched by the Minister without Portfolio, Lord Young.

He has been ordered by the Prime Minister to cut the number of regulations governing companies and said that concerted action was vital to encourage the growth of businesses and hence the creation of jobs.

"I will be looking carefully with colleagues at the recommendation of the scrutiny report, and also at other options for deregulation affecting both large and small firms."

Apart from the restrictions on industrial tribunal appeals, other suggestions include simplifying building, fire and health and safety regulations, and the introduction of a greater degree of "self-certification" by businesses in weights and measure.

The report was warmly applauded by industry. Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the CBI, said that he was delighted that the Government had accepted the need to cut through red tape.

"This will lead to more investment and innovation, and ultimately more jobs," he said.

Typhoid alert

It has been confirmed that a Sheffield girl is suffering from typhoid and parents of pupils at Becklow first and middle schools have been told to watch for symptoms similar to those of "flu".

Benefits test case sent to Europe

By David Hencke,

Social Services Correspondent

A judge has ordered that a test case affecting the right of 10,000 married women to claim benefits for looking after sick relatives be taken to the European Court of Justice.

Judge Bromley, the chief social security commissioner, said yesterday there was a case to be heard that denying the benefit to married women broke an EEC directive against sexual discrimination.

Yesterday's decision followed a ruling by Judge Ryt, president of the social security appeals tribunal, that a married woman was entitled to a £20.50 a week invalid care allowance to look after her severely disabled mother.

The case had been brought by two claimants on behalf of Mrs Jacqueline Drake, from Worsley, Manchester.

Until now invalid care allowance has only been available to men or single women who need to look after disabled relatives. It would cost £85 million a year if it was extended.

Mrs Drake argued that she had given up her job to look after her mother but her husband was expected to support her.

The DHSS had admitted that the benefit did discriminate against married women but said it was not within the scope of the EEC directive.

The department yesterday decided not to oppose a direction that the case should be taken to the European Court.

Mr Roger Smith, a solicitor for the Child Poverty Action Group charity, which brought the case with the Disability Alliance, yesterday welcomed the decision.

The text of the person looking after someone disabled should not make any difference for benefit purposes, he said.

OBITUARY

Marc Chagall

MARC Chagall, the artist, has died in the South of France aged 97. Appreciation, page 12.

Radio waves found in check on NCCL phones

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Telephones at the South London headquarters of the National Council of Civil Liberties were emitting radio waves yesterday, according to bugging tests by a security consultant. The radio signals changed when incoming calls came through.

Mr Larry Gostin, the NCCL general secretary, said yesterday that there was no conclusive proof that the telephones were bugged, but it was a worrying sign that the offices were under surveillance.

He has written to Mrs Thatcher asking for her personal assurance that this was not so.

The tests were taken with an anti-eavesdropping device by Mr Gary Murray, a security consultant who has worked on the contract for M15. Accompanied by Mr Steve Norris, Conservative MP for East Oxford, and NCCL officials, he bought the device from a North London shop specialising in security equipment.

They took the initiative after the former M15 officer, Cathy Massey, alleged on a recent television programme that NCCL staff were targets for telephone taps.

A check showed that all the telephones, except Mr Gostin's private line, emitted radio waves. Tests on telephones in a next-door office proved negative though telephones in a nearby computer office registered faint signals.

Telecom engineers said they could not explain the phenomenon.

Mr Norris intends to ask questions about the matter in the Commons.

In reply to a letter from Mr Gostin, the Prime Minister's office yesterday repeated the Government's view that Lord Bridge, the chairman of the Security Commission who cleared M15 after Miss Massey's allegations, was completely independent.

But the letter did not refer to Mr Gostin's request for assurances that NCCL was not under surveillance.



WEIGHING IN — Henrietta Shaw, 22, the 6st 2lb cox for Cambridge in next Saturday's Boat Race, is held aloft by team mates John Barnard and Paddy Broughton. The daughter of Home Office minister Mr Giles Shaw, she is the first woman at the Cambridge helm and the lightest cox since 1939. Picture by Garry Weaser

Transport union gave NUM £492,000 loan

By Patrick Wintour,

Labour Staff

The NUM has received £492,000 in interest-free loans from the Transport and General Workers' Union since November, the High Court in London heard yesterday.

Mr Howard Page, representing the sequestrators, said that £58,000 had gone to the National Union of Mineworkers and the rest to its areas. The union's assets were seized in October.

The sequestrators, Price Waterhouse, have written to the TGWU seeking more information about the loans. The National Union of Railways and Maritime Transport had made a £100,000 loan to three NUM areas, the court heard.

The NUM had earned £500,000 before receiving representations from the sequestrators.

Mr Page's report to Mr Justice Nicholls, based on 1,500 pages of documentation, was accepted by the court. Mr Page told the court that the NUM's attempts to keep its £9 million assets from the grasp of the English courts.

It showed that the sequestrators had failed to gain control of more than £3,000 of the union's funds, although they and the receiver, Mr Michael Arnold had frozen most of its money transferred abroad.

The court heard that more than £250,000 in United States dollars sent to Switzerland by the NUM is likely to be returned to the English courts from 11 unions and none from soon after an application by 64.

the Receiver to the Swiss courts a fortnight ago.

The Swiss judge gave the union until yesterday to oppose its payment to the receiver.

Mr Justice Nicholls was also told yesterday that judgment is expected shortly in the Dublin courts on the attempt by the sequestrators and Receiver to repatriate £2.7 million of NUM money frozen in a Bank of Ireland account.

Mr Arnold has already transferred £4.9 million into English jurisdiction from Noble Finance, Luxembourg. Of this, £4 million is being held on deposit as a security against any claim by the NUM against Noble for the return of the money.

The remaining £900,000 has been set aside to pay the union's £200,000 contempt fine and to cover the costs of the sequestrators and receiver. Mr Page told the court that the sequestrators and receiver, Mr taking up the guarantee of the Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, that the Government would cover any of their costs.

The sequestrators' report showed they had written to the 12 major clearing banks, 608 other deposit takers, 154 building societies, 653 local authorities, 21 NUM areas and 495 trade unions asking about the union's funds. Unsatisfactory replies had been received from 11 unions and none from soon after an application by 64.

Reservist killed by gunmen

From Paul Johnson,

In Belfast

A part-time member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary died last night after being shot by two gunmen at his garage in Rathfriland, County Down.

Mr John Bell, aged 34, was flown by helicopter to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast for emergency surgery after the daylight attack, but he died hours later from head and back wounds.

The attack was the second on Mr Bell, a father of two, in 1979, a bomb placed under his car was defused.

He decided to stay in the police force although he was a known target for the paramilitaries. Witnesses said that Mr Bell was working in his garage when a car pulled up outside.

Two men, carrying hand guns, got out and opened fire from close range, hitting him twice in the back and once in the head. They then fled in their vehicle.

Earlier this week the IRA killed a soldier in a booby trap explosion in Belfast. Lance Corporal Anthony Decree, 25, died when an army and police force patrol was caught in a 20lb bomb blast in the Divis Flats area of West Belfast.



Mr John Bell: second attack

NEWS IN BRIEF

Peace plan offered at shipyard

A PEACE plan which could end the occupation of Clyde-side warship builders Yarrow was last night being studied by shop stewards. It involves the reinstatement of five suspended shop stewards.

The offer was proposed by the yard's management, whose 3,800 hourly-paid workers voted at a mass meeting earlier yesterday to continue the occupation they started on Tuesday.

The sit-in was originally in protest at the yard's sale by British Shipbuilders to GEC for £24 million—allegedly without proper consultation with the workers.

Talks with GEC were then promised, but at yesterday's mass meeting the workers said they would stay out until Yarrow withdrew the suspension of five senior shop stewards, who were warned against the occupation was decided on.

Boy accused of railway murder

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy appeared before a special juvenile court in Northampton last night charged with the murder of a social worker Janet Meehan, whose body was found beside the railway line outside Northampton on Wednesday of last week after she boarded a train to Birmingham.

Madocks, 33, lived in Institute Road, King's Heath, Birmingham.

The youth was remanded in custody until April 3. An order was made that he should not be identified.

Rail staff union rejects 5pc

THE Transport Salaried Staff Association has rejected British Rail's pay offer package of 5 per cent. The union is seeking a substantial increase and reducing hours.

The two manual unions, ASLEF and NUR are to consider their response to the offer on Monday.

College buys war papers

CHURCHILL College, Cambridge, was the buyer of the political papers of Leslie Horne-Bellish, which fetched £19,800 at the London auctioneers, Phillips on Thursday.

Horne-Bellish was Secretary for War from 1937 to 1940. Money towards the Churchill College purchase came from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Sequestrators pay NGA's fines

SEQUESTRATORS Price Waterhouse announced yesterday they had paid the National Graphical Association's High Court fines of £525,000 from the print union's assets.

The fines were imposed by the High Court in Manchester over the mass picketing at Warrington in 1983 of Mr Eddie Shaw's Messenger newspaper group. The union's assets will shortly be unfrozen when the sequestrators submit their accounts.

MSC resists Government pressure

By David Hearst

The Manpower Services Commission yesterday told the Government that it would not be rushed into expanding the Youth Training Scheme into a two-year programme.

The commission has been asked to come up with its proposals by the end of June, but Mr Bryan Nicholson, the chairman, said it would not meet the deadline at the expense of doing a proper job. Speaking after a meeting of the commission's proposals, Mr Nicholson said: "We want to be absolutely certain of maintaining

and ensuring the quality of the training places, however much we wish to go fast."

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said he expected employers to make a major contribution to the second year of training but exactly how much has yet to be decided. Until key issues like this and the training wage, currently set at £2.25, had been decided, it would be impossible to say whether the extra grant set aside by Government, £125 million in 1986-87 and £300 million in 1987-88, would be enough.

The commission is setting up a series of working groups to draw up proposals for the funding and content of new places. The MSC is also reviewing the issue of how its schemes help trainees to get vocational qualifications, a move which reflects the increasing concern about the education content of the schemes.

Mr Nicholson said there was no evidence that the scheme was being exploited by small employers and called reports of widespread dissatisfaction among trainees with these schemes anecdotal.

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. Interest Rates

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. announces that its base rate for lending will change from 13½% to 13% with effect from 29th March 1985



Head Office: Grindlays Bank p.l.c. Minerva House, Montague Close, London SE1 9DF.

No-strike union wins right to sit on salary committees

Judge puts NUT grip on pay talks in danger

By Paul Keel

The National Union of Teachers' dominant influence in pay bargaining was threatened yesterday when the High Court awarded a rival union increased negotiating rights.

The Professional Association of Teachers, with 30,000 members, the smallest recognised teachers' union, won the right to sit on salary sub-committees and other working groups of the Burnham Committee, which negotiates teachers' pay.

The PAT, which opposes strikes, already had one delegate on the committee, but its access to important sub-committees had been blocked by the NUT, which represents 235,000 teachers in England and Wales.

Mr Justice MacPherson said in the High Court that it was fair and desirable that the PAT should be represented on

all relevant sub-committees and that its exclusion was unfortunate.

The NUT majority on the Burnham teachers' panel was frustrating the intention of Parliament by refusing to accept that each union should be represented on sub-committees. Actions to exclude the PAT were unreasonable. "It is unjust and unfair and contrary to law, in my judgment, that minority voices should be excluded," said the judge.

The PAT had taken the issue to the High Court because the NUT, which has 16 delegates on the teachers' panel, had argued that on a proportional basis the PAT was not entitled to representation on the sub-committees.

After the court victory the PAT said that the NUT's power to halt pay negotiations by walking out of talks with employers on the salary structure working party had been diminished.

Mr Geoff Gospel, PAT's assistant general secretary, said: "It is a victory for the minority voice and a victory for common sense."

He claimed that NUT members were deserting the union at the rate of 500 a week during the pay dispute and that soon its majority on the Burnham teachers' panel would be in doubt.

The NUT's deputy general secretary, Mr Doug McAvoy, said: "We are not surprised about the judgment. The PAT were put on the Burnham Committee by the Secretary of State because he has the legal powers to do so."

The judgment simply extends that provision to the composition of sub-committees. There is no change.

Church faces growing split on Jenkins

By Martyn Halsall
Churches Correspondent

More than a third of Church of England bishops could share doubts on the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection expressed by the Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev David Jenkins, it was claimed yesterday.

A 20,000-name petition calling for doctrinal orthodoxy in future appointments will be presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, at Lambeth Palace on Tuesday.

The Church's deepening doctrinal crisis — now on the agenda of the House of Bishops after a debate in the General Synod — was underlined again yesterday by Bishop Jenkins's Easter message to his diocese. "As is now, perhaps, alas notorious, I personally do not know whether the grave was empty or not," he said.

"I cannot cheat or conceal this because the whole matter is too important for cheating or concealment, or pretending to particular beliefs that one does not find sufficient reason for holding."

"In any case, the empty tomb cannot prove, does not establish and may not even mean, the Resurrection. The alternative, rational and plausible explanation that the disciples stole the body was around pretty early on."

In a survey published yesterday by Action for Biblical Witness to Our Nation, which claims the support of more than 1,000 Church of England clergy, 60 per cent of the bishops asked said they believed in the Virgin Birth.

Sixty-three per cent believed in the bodily resurrection of Christ and only 32 per cent would allow their fellow bishops to hold the views held by Bishop Jenkins.

The Rev Tony Highton, Rector of Hawke, Essex, who founded the organisation after the bishop's controversial statements a year ago, said bishops who could not agree with an historical Resurrection and Virgin Birth should cease to hold any leading position in the Church.

The survey has met with resistance even among bishops who gave details. The Bishop of Bradford, the Rt Rev Roy Williamson, called the poll simply the first step down the heresy trail.

The Bishop of Derby, the Rt Rev Cyril Bowles, said he accepted the Virgin Birth and the empty tomb, but "the choice of the Bishop of Durham seems to me to be inspired and I hope he will not be deterred by the strident opposition to him and the drawing up of petitions."

The new chairman of the Doctrine Commission, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev John Baker, said it was clear Bishop Jenkins "does not totally accept every detail of the official faith of the Church of England; but his deviations from it are minor, and are intended to strengthen rather than weaken belief in the central doctrines of that faith."

Controversy as Jasmine case officials resign

By Seamus Milne

The independent inquiry into the death of battered child Jasmine Beckford, whose parents were sent to prison on Thursday, will not start work until after Easter, but controversy over the case and the resignations of three Brent social services officials grew yesterday.

The department had legal care of Jasmine at the time of her death last summer, and social workers were criticised for "valuing almost beyond belief" by Judge Thomas Pigot during the trial. The inquiry Brent Council has set up will be conducted by a six-member panel led by the barrister, Mr Louis Blom-Cooper QC.

Brent social services has conducted an internal investigation and there were no sackings. But three senior officials involved in the Beckford case have resigned.

Ms Valerie Howarth, Brent's social services director, has been appointed to the same job in Cambridgeshire; her assistant, Mr Dennis Simpson, will head the London Borough of Southwark's social services; and Mr Jeremy Burns, in charge of Brent child care unit, is also leaving.

Despite claims that Ms Howarth did not tell her new employers about the Beckford case during her interview, Cambridgeshire County Council said yesterday that it will not reconsider the appointment.

Cambridgeshire's Labour opposition leader, Mrs Janet Jones, who sat on the appointment committee, said members were not told about the case. This was a "grave cause for concern. I want an emergency meeting to be convened before

any contracts of employment are signed."

The Conservative MP for South-west Cambridgeshire, Sir Anthony Grant, also urged the council to reconsider its decision. "The judge made severe criticism of the social services in Brent," he said. "I believe Cambridgeshire County Council should look again."

Brent Council was also criticised yesterday about the length of time it took to set up the independent inquiry. Mr Martin Coleman, leader of the minority Labour group, said yesterday that the council had fought the setting up of an inquiry "all the way down the line."

When the inquiry does meet, it will need to look at what steps can be taken when parents deny health visitors and social workers access to their children — as happened with the Beckfords.

Even when a child is the subject of a care order, neither social workers nor health visitors have the right to see it. If social workers are convinced a child is in danger, they can apply for a court order to remove the child.

But the court would need to be satisfied that the child was at risk.

"It's a Catch 22," said Mr Jim McHugh, a professional officer with the British Association of Social Workers. "If we are to avoid a police state, what are needed are more resources for training and prevention. Residential and day nurseries can also be used to defuse the tension that arises in such families."

The Social Services Secretary, Mr Norman Fowler, said he will take a close look at the results of Mr Blom-Cooper's inquiry.

Leader comment, page 14



DIVINE DISCS: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie (left), presenting gold records at Lambeth Palace yesterday to the composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, his wife, singer Sarah Brightman, and 12-year-old Paul Miles-Kingston, a Winchester Cathedral chorboy. The awards were for Requiem, which has sold 100,000 copies in the United Kingdom and is number five in the album charts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Father admits taking girl

A FATHER who snatched his daughter and fled to America was given a one-month good sentence suspended for two years by Newbury magistrates yesterday.

In the first case under the 1984 Child Abduction Act, John Boyd, aged 31, unemployed, of Newbury, Berkshire, admitted taking his daughter, Kelly Marie, aged four, abroad without the consent of her mother, Elizabeth, or the authorities.

Mr Boyd, who was divorced from his wife last year on the grounds of her adultery, feared that she was reducing his access to Kelly.

Extradition proceedings began, but Mr Boyd returned voluntarily after he realised his daughter was not settling in America.

Unions seek oil ban on S. Africa

DOCK and shipping unions from around the world have been invited to a conference in London this autumn to discuss stopping all oil supplies to South Africa. The aim is to build up support among dockers and seafarers to enforce United Nations oil sanctions against the Pretoria government.

The conference has been called by the Maritime Unions against Apartheid, which includes the National Union of Seamen, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Australian and Danish seamen's unions.

'False alibi' man sentenced

A MAN who gave a false alibi for a murderer was sentenced to 150 hours community service at Winchester Crown Court yesterday. David Stacey, aged 37, unemployed, of East Stoke, Dorset, had admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Stacey told police investigating the murder of the IBM executive, Mr Michael Robertson, that he and Mr Robertson's gardener — who was jailed for life for the murder — were in a pub on the night Mr Robertson was battered to death at his home last October.

Plot charge five in court

FIVE men accused of conspiring with others to cause an explosion appeared before Liverpool magistrates yesterday. A sixth accused, Dr Maire O'Shea, aged 65, a retired consultant psychiatrist, did not appear, and was further remanded on bail on sureties of £30,000, with a further £20,000 deposited in court.

The magistrates were told that the prosecution would be ready for committal proceedings to be heard on May 10.

Cable spreads

THE number of homes receiving cable television has increased by 12.4 per cent to 145,290 over the past three months, according to figures released yesterday by the Joint Industry Committee for Cable Audience Research.



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LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION

Hailsham likely to reject law centres' aid plea

By Malcolm Dean

The Lord Chancellor is unlikely to help 15 law centres which face the axe because of the abolition of the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan county councils.

The Law Centre Federation has appealed to Lord Hailsham for subsidies. It has not received a reply yet but the Lord Chancellor made it clear this week in a Lord's debate that he opposed his department becoming burdened by administrative detail. The 15 centres help almost 75,000 people a year.

"I have always thought that anything in the nature of a chain of advice bureaux, whether on the Citizens' Advice Bureaux level or on the

more professional level, is inevitably a matter which has to be administered locally and certainly could not be administered from the centre by the Lord Chancellor's Department," he said.

Mr Brian Baker, a federation spokesman, said yesterday: "The Lord Chancellor has an obligation to ensure the thousands of poor people who are helped by the centres every year are not denied access to free legal advice."

Some centres believe that the district councils which will take over the functions of the metropolitan authorities will not have sufficient funds to support them.

Some receive aid from the Environment Department's urban aid programme, but this has also started to cut support to the centres.

The Lord Chancellor's legal aid advisory committee appealed in its last report for the centres to be protected from the local government abolition bill, rate-capping and urban aid policy changes. Britain has 54 law centres with 20 at risk from rate-capping on top of the 15 under direct threat.

Forest spray

Up to 20,000 acres of woodlands in the Scottish Highlands are to be sprayed with pesticides in an attempt to control two insect pests which threaten to destroy large tracts of plantations, the Forestry Commission said yesterday.



Income Bonds and Deposit Bonds

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE CHANGES

From 12 May 1985 the rate of interest payable on Income Bonds and Deposit Bonds will be changed from 12.75% to 13.25% p.a.

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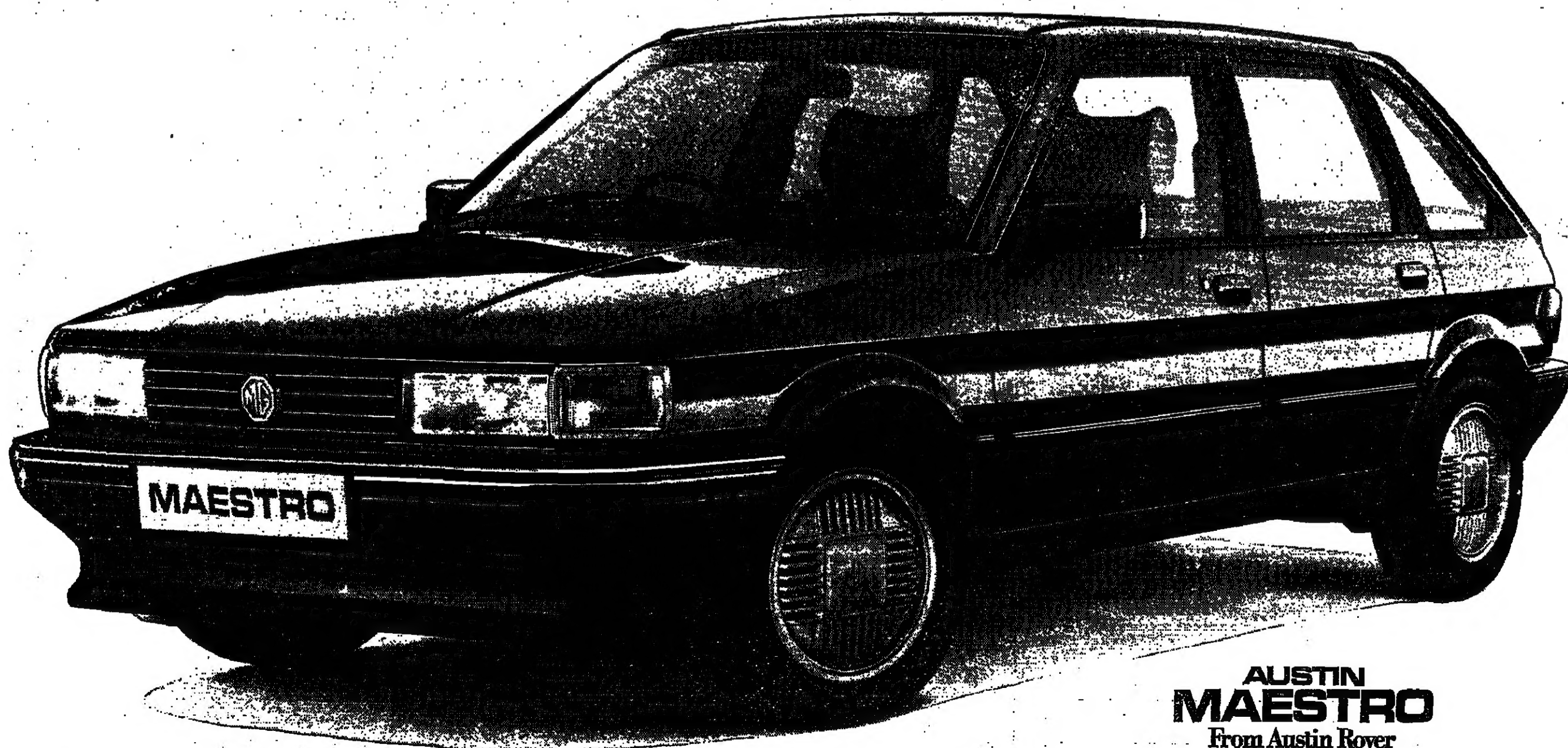
All are highly economical. Even the two litre EFi can return 47.4mpg at 56mph.

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All join vigil for Neves recovery

From Jan Rocha in Sao Paulo

After several days of fighting for his life, Brazil's President-elect, Mr. Tancredo Neves, is now said to be improving steadily.

Mr. Neves, aged 75, has undergone three emergency operations for abdominal problems within two weeks. The latest complication is a lung and abdominal infection, which the doctors claim, is being overcome.

The President's illness began just a few hours before he was due to take office as Brazil's first civilian ruler for 21 years.

Mr. Neves was taken to hospital with crippling pains just a few hours before the inauguration ceremony on March 15. The President-elect has also had to survive a tug-of-war between the doctors of Brasilia and Sao Paulo, each anxious to conduct his treatment.

Few doubt that a transfer from the general hospital in Brasilia to the heart institute of the University Hospital in Sao Paulo saved Mr. Neves's life. The institute has a medical reputation that ranks with the world's best. Heart transplants are carried out there.

Not everyone trusts the doctors to cure their President. On the pavement outside, a group of voodoo practitioners, or followers of Afro-Brazilian rites, have set up an altar, complete with life size images of their own black gods.

Cabeleiro Valdo and Tia Maria, surrounded by lighted candles and offerings. The priest in charge of the altar explained that this was a joint effort by three different voodoo groups, aided by a witchdoctor from the Tupi-Guarani tribe of Indians.

The President has been attacked by evil forces produced by envy, explained the priest, Pai Carlos. "We have to fight them with positive forces."

While the evil spirits are being fought on the pavement, inside the hospital the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sao Paulo is saying Mass, aided by a Dominican friar, Frei Beto, who is well known in Brazil as a leading practitioner of liberation theology.

The President is a Roman Catholic, of the conservative brand. All over the country, Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Muslims have been holding special services praying for his recovery.

In Brasilia the politicians, anxious to prevent a power vacuum developing during his absence, have been ostentatiously rallying around his deputy, and acting President, Mr. Jose Sarney.

The prospect of a long convalescence before Mr. Neves could take office raises the possibility of a political crisis overtaking Brazil's fragile new democracy. All parties have demonstrated their willingness to support Mr. Sarney in the short term, but unlike Mr. Neves, he is a man with little if any popular support.

Mr. Sarney, who has been in the shadow of the military regime for 20 years, and only deserted when the ship was going down.

© Tancredo Neves

President Suazo threatens to declare state of emergency

Ruling party split plunges Honduras into crisis

From Paul Glickman in Tegucigalpa

Honduras was locked in a constitutional crisis yesterday, with President Roberto Suazo Cordova demanding the reinstatement of five Supreme Court justices sacked by Congress for alleged corruption.

He met armed forces chiefs yesterday after describing the ruling Liberal Party's efforts to reshuffle the Supreme Court as a violation of the Constitution. But observers say the confrontation originates in a power struggle within the Liberal Party.

Early yesterday the Congress voted by 50 to 29 to remove the five justices, including Chief Justice Manuel Ariza Calomero. The action came one day after a congressional commission reported that the Supreme Court had repeatedly violated the Constitution in failing to pursue certain legal cases.

While the deputies heatedly debated the motion on Thursday, President Suazo dispatched a riot squad to surround the Supreme Court building. The Minister of the Presidency, Mr. Ubaldino Arias, said that if the crisis was not quickly resolved the President might declare a state of emergency.

After President Suazo met the National Security Council for several hours on Thursday,

a government spokesman said that the armed forces were giving "total and full support" to the President during the crisis. There is little possibility of a military coup, and most politicians hope that the armed forces will play a mediating role.

Many believe that the confrontation is the result of a power struggle within the ruling party. Mr. Edwin Bu Giron, the president of the Congress, is seeking the party's presidential nomination, while President Suazo is backing another candidate.

The President controls the delegates to the forthcoming party convention, and Mr. Bu Giron wants the National Elections Tribunal to allow internal elections to select new delegates. The tribunal has thus far rejected calls for internal elections, but the tribunal member with the casting vote is appointed by the Supreme Court.

Mr. Bu Giron achieved the majority vote in the Congress with the support of dissenting Liberals and most of the opposition National Party deputies. Several actions of the National Party also want to shift the balance of power on the tribunal, because they charge that it has blocked the free selection of National Party delegates in favour of a faction backed by President Suazo.

D'Aubuisson isolated by split in Arena

From Paul Kilmann in San Salvador

The US is gently nudging Salvadoran politicians towards new alliances which will effectively neutralise Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, the extreme right's violent and demagogic standard bearer, after tomorrow's election.

Although voters have not been informed of the new arrangement, Major D'Aubuisson's party, the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, is expected to split when the new 60-seat legislative assembly meets. A new faction is expected to emerge under the leadership of Mr. Hugo Barrera, who was Arena's vice-presidential candidate when Major D'Aubuisson ran for the presidency last year.

The decision to split from the major reflects the victory of a strong campaign by US officials here to persuade the landowners and industrialists who finance Arena that they stand no chance of success with so controversial a figure as their champion.

A whispering campaign has

focused on the fact that the US Congress would never provide aid to a government headed by Major D'Aubuisson, who has been linked with the death squads and the assassination five years ago of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

US officials feel that Mr. Barrera is more presentable because of his long-standing links with the powerful Free Enterprise Association. AEEP. The owner of a food processing plant who once ended a strike by pulling a pistol on its organisers, he has impeccable rightwing credentials.

US officials are unhappy at the choice of name for his new party, the Patria Libre (Free Fatherland), which is expected to attract at least five of the Arena deputies in the new assembly.

The new group is expected to form an alliance with dissidents from another rightwing party, the National Conciliation Party, which is likely to form a coalition with President Jose Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democratic Party in exchange for control over a number of government agencies.

Teachers' leaders seized

From Malcolm Coad in Santiago

A Chilean teacher was fighting for his life in hospital yesterday and five others were missing after raids by suspected pro-government hit squads.

Workers in the Roman Catholic Church's human rights office, Solidarity Vicariate, and a member of the Group of Families of Missing Detainees were also reported missing.

In a first raid on Thursday, gunmen burst into Teachers' Association offices here and

took five people away, including the general secretary, Dr. Alejandro Traverso.

Yesterday, Mr. Manuel Guerrero, president of the association's metropolitan branch, was bundled into an unmarked car as his school started.

Mr. Jose Manuel Parada, a worker in Solidarity Vicariate's legal department, whose children go to the school, was also matched. Another teacher who tried to intervene was shot in the stomach.

Police denied carrying out the arrests at the school.

Thatcher crusades against red tape

From Derek Brown in Brussels

Mrs Thatcher yesterday enlisted EEC allies in her crusade to cut European red tape — including, in her definition, state aids to industry, wages standards, and health and safety regulations.

The Prime Minister urged fellow heads of government to set up a study of EEC directives and regulations, with the aim of sweeping away at least a third of them.

Her plea for greater freedom for market forces, especially for small businesses, was supported by three prime ministers. Mr Wilfried Martens of Belgium, Mr Ruud Lubbers of the Netherlands, and Dr Garret FitzGerald of Ireland. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany also spoke in favour.

The debate on the economic and social condition of the Community, provided Mrs Thatcher with an ideal launching pad for her campaign for a deregulated, deregulated internal market for Europe.

Her admiration for the American way of economic recovery permeated her 10-minute speech. She picked up similarly approving opening remarks by the EEC Commission president, Mr Jacques Delors, who had said that Europe could learn from the US example.

Mrs Thatcher pointed out that the job creation in America had come from an enterprise culture. Nine-tenths of the 20 million jobs created there in the last 15 years, had come in businesses employing fewer than 100 people.

She then suggested that the



Tight security for the summit; a Belgian bomb disposal expert attaches explosives to a suitcase found near the Irish embassy, Brussels, yesterday as European leaders arrived. The case was found to be harmless.

Community should look again at its own regulations, especially those which imposed burdens on small enterprises. Last year, she said, the EEC had created 50 directives, excluding those dealing with agriculture.

A study could be set up of the impact of such legislation, with the aim of cutting it by two-thirds. Mrs Thatcher also talked approvingly of lower than average wages rates for young Germans, which she said had led to greater number of apprenticeships.

She described unemployment as a blot on Europe. National

efforts to encourage job creation through deregulation, would "damage real health and safety."

Earlier, Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl were also in political harmony when the summit discussed food aid to famine-hit countries in Africa. The leaders were told that their pledge, at the Dublin summit last December, to provide 1.2 million tonnes of food for Africa, had already been exceeded. Commission figures first produced some four weeks ago, put the total of aid allocations since Dublin at 1,294 million tonnes.

At the urging of the British

and German leaders, the summit asked the commission to produce another urgent report on how much of the aid has actually been delivered to starving people.

Mr Papandreu holds the key to success for this summit, which is anxious to build on Thursday's agreement by foreign ministers on EEC entry terms for Spain and Portugal. The Greek prime minister is threatening to veto the accession terms unless the Community offers new development aid to Mediterranean regions, with Greece as a prime beneficiary.

notes on guarantee thresholds for fruit and vegetables, compulsory distillation of wine, and other exciting matters.

It was asserted, at one point, that Britain was blocking negotiations over fishing. At another, it was said that the hold-up was about a suggestion that British sherry should be named or renamed to please Spain. Mr Jacques Delors, EEC commission president, then announced: "We are two fingers away from agreement," which sounds much better in French.

At length the waiting was over, and speculation hardened into fact. A ragged cheer went up in the press room.

At 4 am, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Office Minister of State, announced in measured tones that it had been a historic moment. What had been the mood at that moment? "We were very satisfied," he revealed.

Mr Moran and Mr Lopes then waxed eloquent on the strengthening of democracy, the spirit of friendship, and the new dawn for Europe. But Mr Lopes endearingly confessed that much of the negotiations had been very boring.

Eight years and one day after Portugal's application to join, it was at last over, bar the champagne. Spanish, naturally.

The buck passing that made history

By Derek Brown in Brussels

IT ENDED much as it began, eight long years ago. New eras were proclaimed, undying friendships sworn and there were resounding declarations of loyalty to Europe, and to democracy. Everyone agreed, as dawn approached, that they were in the presence of history.

It did not seem that way a couple of hours earlier, when 12 sets of foreign ministers and aides were still wading through the swamp of detailed negotiations to get Spain and Portugal into the EEC. Opinion was divided, at the end, about the very last substantive item which wrapped up eight years of history making. Some said it was the Greeks agreeing to Community subsidies on tomato paste, in return for an extension in Community tariffs on the paste from four years to five.

Others held that it was the statesmanlike decision to pass on the Spanish hake quota question to the next EEC council of fisheries ministers. Mr. George Bush, warned that were passed. Ministers and diplomats, emerging blinking from the last 17-hour session, freely admitted there were lots of loose ends to be tied. The implication is that ministers have

decided that all matters of high political principle have been resolved.

The decision brought to a decent but belated end nearly a decade of Iberian frustration, and a year of Community embarrassment over deadlines missed. Each time the world was assured that failure to meet the deadline would mean the collapse of the Ten's hopes to become the Twelve on January 1, 1986.

Even now that target for formal accession is in doubt. A Greek veto still

looms ominously, should the Community fail to decide new development aid for Mediterranean countries most affected by the enlargement. The accession treaties remain to be fully drafted, and then they must be ratified by member parliaments. Elections, government crises, and the sense of national self-interest, which is the main feature of Community decision-making, could all intervene to wreck the grand design.

None of that was in anyone's mind, of course, at 3.15 am

EEC gives budget guarantees

THE deal agreed yesterday on terms for Spanish and Portuguese entry includes guarantees that they will not be net contributors to the EEC budget during transition to full membership. Portugal is assured of a handsome flow of EEC funds.

The terms involve a complex web of transitional arrangements of industry, agriculture, and social affairs, some details of which have still to be fixed. The following is a summary of the main points.

Spain: Industry — import tariffs to be dismantled over

seven years; car import duty to be reduced sharply during the first three years and import quotas increased by almost a third. Fisheries — limited access to EEC waters for no more than 150 vessels at a time. A 10-year deal promised after 10 years.

Agriculture — a transitional seven-year period for phasing out customs duties and introducing EEC prices; for fruit and vegetables, a transitional 10-year period; wine price harmonisation in seven years and obligatory distillation of surplus. Social Affairs — movement of Spanish workers within the EEC restricted for seven

years. European Parliament: 60 members. Candidates to remain free-trade zone outside EEC.

Portugal: Industry — tariffs dismantled over seven years. Agriculture — a 10-year transition period with special aid and protection for tomato paste and sugar. Fisheries — an exclusive 200-mile Portuguese zone, including the Azores and Madeira waters, for 10 years. Social Affairs — similar to Spain, but with a special 10-year exemption for Luxembourg, which has a high proportion of Portuguese workers. European Parliament: 24 members.

East Germans publish leaked details of Geneva discussions

By Hella Fleck

THE East German party paper, Neues Deutschland, yesterday carried an outline of proposals which it said, the Soviet Union had put forward at the Geneva arms talks.

It said that the Soviet Union had called for a moratorium on research as well as testing and deployment of space weapons; for a freeze on existing nuclear launchers and warheads; and for a limit to further development of medium-range nuclear weapons by NATO and the Soviet Union.

Neues Deutschland carried this report under a Brussels headline which said: "East German newspaper publishes leaked information from 'well-placed sources' in the Belgian

capital, where Nato has its headquarters."

However, there can be little doubt that the story is a clumsily disguised move by the Soviet Union to use one of its Warsaw Pact allies to circumvent the confidentiality rule adopted by the United States and the Soviet Union to protect the Geneva negotiations.

The United States has so far been scrupulous in avoiding leaks. Even though the Nato allies have been given a broad outline of the Soviet statements since the negotiations opened early this month, virtually nothing has filtered through to the Western media. It is quite implausible that an East German correspondent in Brussels should be able to obtain information about Soviet proposals from any Western source.

The Americans are certain to be annoyed by the publication in East Germany of proposals which the Russians are alleged to have made in Geneva. It will be interpreted with considerable scepticism as evidence that the Soviet Union is more concerned to exploit Geneva for propaganda purposes than for serious negotiations.

If the Soviet Union is indeed promoting the ideas outlined by Neues Deutschland, then the Russians are doing no more than repeating well worn proposals which have already been turned down by the United States. But he showed little flexibility on the strategic defence initiative despite the strong linkage which the Russians have made between progress in the space and other sets of arms control talks. He said that it was still the US home to work out a "transition" period for reducing offensive weapons and installing defensive systems. "The Russians have not accepted the idea of a cooperative transition," Mr Shultz said.

White House gives cautious support to Gorbachev talks

From Alex Brummer in Washington

THE Administration yesterday welcomed proposed talks in Moscow next month between Soviet leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, and a senior congressional delegation. At the same time, the Vice-President, Mr George Bush, warned that Mr Gorbachev was a "devastatingly good salesman" with the skills to disturb the unity of the Western Alliance.

The Speaker of the House, Mr Tip O'Neill, the leading Democrat on Capitol Hill, led a bipartisan delegation to Moscow and Leningrad from April 7 to April 12. He will be accompanied by the house Republican leader, Mr Bob Michel, of Illinois.

The Administration appears anxious to bury last weekend's shooting incident in East Germany as soon as possible, although the State Department summoned three leading Russian officials to Foggy Bottom on Thursday to deliver a formal protest. "We hope the new Soviet leadership will seize this opportunity for con-

structive actions that will prevent such incidents in future," the US said.

There was some emotion in the air yesterday as the body of Major Arthur Nicholson, the officer involved in the incident, was returned to the US. He will be buried at Arlington national cemetery with full military honours today. As

gesture of its disgust the US has decided to boycott and anniversary gathering next month of US Soviet veterans of the Second World War at the Elbe river. But the official response is likely to be limited.

With the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, beginning to speak out on arms control issues, the Administration yesterday appeared keen to join the propaganda war. Mr Bush, in a speech in Cleveland, noted that Mr Gorbachev's accession to power "makes our job tougher". It is now more important that we keep giving the free world strong and alert leadership. It's very important that the alliance stay together."

The Vice-President, who has recently been taking a higher public profile on the political issues of the day, said that "critical to our success in those (arms control) negotiations will be the unity of the Nato countries." He made a plea for full funding for the so-called Star Wars defence.

Despite the so far unpromising noises from Geneva the Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, continues to emphasise the US's flexibility. He said a Texas speech that the US was ready to meet the Russians halfway in finding "a mutually acceptable approach."

But he showed little flexibility on the strategic defence initiative despite the strong linkage which the Russians have made between progress in the space and other sets of arms control talks. He said that it was still the US home to work out a "transition" period for reducing offensive weapons and installing defensive systems. "The Russians have not accepted the idea of a cooperative transition," Mr Shultz said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US to 'spy' on Greece

THE US Government has repositioned a satellite controlled from a base in central Asia to spy on Greece, according to the National Times newspaper, writes Richard Yallop.

The move is said to reflect concern within the Reagan Administration about the government of the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu, who has threatened to remove US bases from Greek soil.

Nine sentenced

NINE Pakistanis were sentenced to gaol terms of up to 13 years in Vienna yesterday for plotting to murder Pakistan's ambassador to Austria and planning to kidnap other diplomats. The plan to take 58 people hostage last July failed because the gang could not find the room at the Hotel Imperial at which a reception took place. — Reuters.

Nuclear 'no'

THE Danish Parliament voted yesterday against any inclusion of nuclear power stations in public energy plans. The resolution, opposed by the four parties in the minority ruling coalition, was carried by 79 votes to 67. — Reuters.

Learning tax

SWAZILAND'S Queen Regent Ntombi has asked every adult in the country to contribute about £2 towards the education of their future king, Prince Makhosetive, aged 18, who is studying at Sherborne and is expected to become king at the age of 21. — Reuters.

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How to avoid getting stuck in the wrong career.

You start at a disadvantage.

Aged 21, or younger, you are expected to pick a career that will shape the rest of your life.

How unreasonable.

After all, would you marry a girl you'd never met? Or buy a house you'd never seen?

It's just as foolish to plunge into a career you know nothing about.

There's not much point in discovering, halfway up the ladder in, say, banking, that you'd rather be making documentary films.

Or serving abroad with the Foreign Office.

Ten years hence, you'll probably have a mortgage and a young family.

It will be, in the words of the song, much too late for goodbye.

First, find out what you're good at.

Ideally, you wouldn't specialise straightaway.

You'd spend your first few years exploring different jobs.

Finding out what excites and what bores you. What you're good at and what you should definitely avoid. (As Somerset Maugham said, only the mediocre are always at their best.)

Above all, you'd discover what you most enjoy doing. Then you'd stick at it.

Unfortunately, with three million out of work, nobody can afford to flit from job to job.

Yet there is no single career that can give you the variety of work experience you need.

Or is there?

We'll coax your talents out of hiding.

As well as soldiering, an Army Officer can find himself tackling unusual jobs.

Making documentary films. Serving with the Foreign Office. Training to be an astronaut. Practising law. Writing books and magazine articles. Leading an Himalayan expedition. Solving land disputes. Teaching degree courses. Conserving wildlife in the Antarctic. Acting as equerries to the Royal Family. Organising disaster relief. Devising computer programs. Building bridges and airfields. Underwater archaeological exploration.

The list could go on to fill the rest of this page.

Think about it. What other career could allow you to develop in so many different directions?

Broadening the mind.

Our work takes us all over the world. Places like Berlin and Hong Kong could be familiar territory.

You would live and work in them, not just visit as a tourist.

But don't expect life to be one long holiday.

You might well serve in Northern Ireland Or on the tense East/West German border.

We may send you to the snake-infested jungles of Belize. (You'll need a machete and your wits about you.)

Picture yourself trekking out of Kathmandu to pay pensions to retired Gurkha warriors.

Officers serving with the Gurkhas must speak Gurkhali. So we'd teach you.

We could also teach you Arabic, Chinese, German, Russian, Spanish and Swahili. (Not to mention quite a few computer languages.)

Room at the top.

Naturally, we hope most of the young men we train will make their long term careers with us.

But we've had our share of failures.

Several very promising officers have, for instance, gone on to become Prime Ministers.

(Six out of the nine post-war British Prime Ministers served as Army Officers.)

Others deserted us for big business.

(At the last count, the heads of 32 of the top 100 companies in the UK.)

All these renegades recognise the value of an Army training.

So if, after three, five or eight years, you leave us, you will have impeccable credentials.

And a very clear idea of how you want your career to develop.

An advertisement can only begin to touch on the huge variety of an Army Officer's work.

Someone who can tell you more is Major John Floyd.

Write to him at Empress State Building, Army Officer Entry, Department F16, Lillie Rd., London SW6 1TR.

He'll want to know your date of birth, where you are currently studying and the qualifications you have or expect.

In return he'll help you get details of the hundred and one careers that await you as an Army Officer.

Army Officer

NEWS
BRIEF

to 1991
Growth

Army fears the Unifil force would limit power of action

Israel tries to hold UN troops back from border

From David Landau in Jerusalem

The Israeli Government is mounting a campaign to prevent the 7,000-man UN force in southern Lebanon (Unifil) moving south to bring its units right up to the Israeli border.

Such a deployment is part of the UN force's original mandate and it is known that UN officials want the force to follow the Israeli withdrawal as they continue their southward from Lebanon.

Israeli defence sources say Unifil's continued presence in

Lebanon diplomats have recently tried to convince some of the contributing countries that Unifil will be both redundant and endangered after Israel's withdrawal, which is now scheduled for completion by late May. But there has been no response. Indeed, Holland and Norway, which had earlier considered reducing their contingents, have now postponed such action.

The UN under secretary-general, Mr Brian Urquhart is due in Jerusalem in a week or so for talks with the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, and the Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, on the future of Unifil. Both sides apparently recognise that if Israel remains adamant, it will be difficult for Unifil to move towards the border — at least so long as the mainly Christian South Lebanon Army remains intact.

Even before the invasion in June, 1982, Israel employed the Christian militias to keep Unifil away from the border.

There was tension with the Christian commander, Major Saad Hadad. The Likud Government accused some Unifil battalions of sympathising with, and actively assisting, the PLO.

The atmosphere changed with the creation of the national unity government last year. Mr Rabin cooperated enthusiastically in Mr Urquhart's effort to orchestrate Israel-Lebanon military talks at Unifil headquarters, designed to produce a withdrawal and security accord. Unifil was to have an enhanced role in maintaining that security.

But Mr Urquhart's hopes of winning the tacit consent of the Syrians proved unfounded, and Mr Rabin was left disillusioned and resentful. In charge of an increasingly mauled and demoralised army.

FIVE people were wounded, including two Lebanese soldiers, in fighting between Lebanese troops and Christian militias yesterday near the southern city of Sidon. Troops and Christian "Lebanese forces" militiamen fought with machine-guns, rocket-propelled grenades, and explosions for 90 minutes in the third day of clashes. — Reuters.

southern Lebanon will hamper the army's freedom of action if the Shiite or PLO guerrilla attacks continue, and Israel strikes back, as it has said it will. A Unifil deployment flush against the border would make massive retaliation logistically awkward and politically embarrassing the sources argue.

They dismiss the counter-argument that Unifil might actually be effective in policing and protecting the border zone from terrorist infiltrations.

The Unifil mandate is due for its periodic renewal at the Security Council on April 19. But with the Beirut Government strongly urging renewal, and the contributing countries all apparently prepared to keep their troops in the force, Israel has no real hope of removing the blue berets.

Iraq 'has detected' Iran missile sites

Baghdad: A senior official said yesterday that Iraq had pinpointed a base from which Iran was firing missiles at Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

The base was close to the city of Kermanshah, 75 miles from the Iraqi border, and the missiles were modified versions of Soviet-made REFTs, with a range of 125 to 180 miles.

Diplomats said that a surprise visit to Moscow by the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Mr Tariq Aziz, and the Minister of State for Military Affairs, Mr Abdul-Jabbar Shamsud-Din, was connected with Iran's access to the missiles. On Thursday President Saddam Hussein admitted for the first time that Iranian missiles had been hitting Iraqi cities. Iraq initially blamed the explosions on saboteurs using bombs.

"Some Arab traitors gave the Iranians a number of missiles to strike at Baghdad and Kirkuk, with the hope of terrifying the people of Iraq," he said.

The President did not elaborate, but Gulf diplomats have said that Libya or Syria were suspected of supplying about

50 ground-to-ground missiles to Iran.

This month six explosions shook Baghdad, and one occurred in the northern oil city of Kirkuk. Each time Iran said it had fired a long-range missile. The explosions caused scores of casualties.

In Teheran, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the parliament Speaker, and spokesman for Iran's Supreme Defence Council, ruled out clemency for President Saddam Hussein, following Iraq's alleged use of chemical weapons.

Referring to Iran's recent offensive in the marshlands of southern Iraq, he said the Iranian forces advanced on a front of up to 30 miles wide, from an outpost at Tourabeh to southern Majnoon Island. About 3,000 Iraqi prisoners had been captured, and 8,000 killed, he said.

However, Saudi Arabia is more democratic than the West thinks. King Fahd has taken at least some account of increasingly powerful anti-American feelings, not just within the royal family, but in the country at large.

Saudis in secret Russian talks

By Heiga Graham

SAUDI Arabia, which has no formal relations with a Communist country, has had secret talks with Soviet officials that could ultimately lead to diplomatic recognition of the Soviet Union.

The Saudi kingdom has avoided such relations in the past on principle. But, during the last two weeks, a Saudi prince has had talks with a Soviet delegation in Kuwait, the only Gulf country to have relations with Moscow, according to informed Kuwaiti and other Gulf sources. Anger with the US and President Reagan's Middle East policies seems to have been a major factor.

The talks, on relations with the Communist bloc, should lead to Saudi recognition of Romania and Yugoslavia before the end of the year. They would also pave the way for the medium-term — possibly within three years — for direct Saudi relations with the Soviet Union.

The Saudi delegation is expected to go on to Vienna for more talks at the weekend. Meanwhile, Saudi ambassadors are being recalled to take part in a major policy review: relations with the Communist bloc, and the Soviet Union in particular, will be high on the agenda.

Saudi Arabia has long had informal relations with Yugoslavia and Romania, both regarded by the Saudis as following a relatively independent foreign policy line. The Saudis attended the non-aligned summit in Yugoslavia in 1981, and for the past ten years have had important commercial contacts with Romania.

The Saudi decision to strike out on this new path followed the recent US visit. King Fahd's recent US visit, the Saudis were angered by what they considered to be US indifference to the need for a reasonable Palestinian settlement.

Although the King's American trip was an important diplomatic landmark, being the first Saudi royal visit in a decade, no joint statement was issued. For the habitually courteous Saudis, this was a mark of severe displeasure. It should have been read by President Reagan as a warning signal.

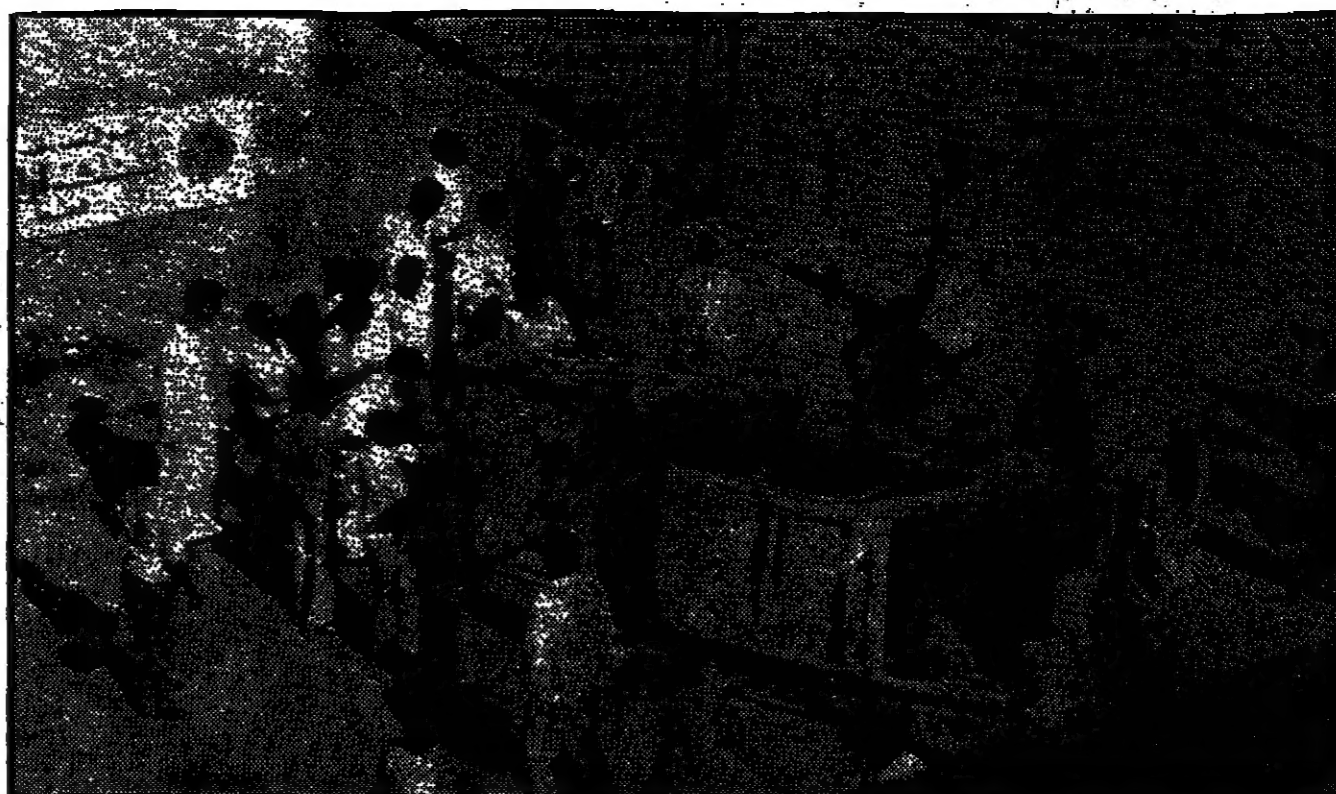
Saudi Arabia has long considered the option of opening relations with the Soviet Union, albeit gloomily, mainly to counter-balance total diplomatic dependence on the US.

The Saudi way is to move gradually, subtly, and often sideways. A stage one now seems to be under way, stage two — actual recognition of the Soviet Union — is unlikely to follow automatically.

For one thing, the Saudi inner ruling circle is still partly divided on the issue. Within the top echelon of the royal family, the main advocates of the step are Prince Saud, the Foreign Minister, and his brothers — sons of the late King Faisal.

But King Fahd and his four brothers are thought to have reservations.

However, Saudi Arabia is more democratic than the West thinks. King Fahd has taken at least some account of increasingly powerful anti-American feelings, not just within the royal family, but in the country at large.



Aftermath of the Riots: a car set alight in Khartoum by demonstrators protesting against food price increases.

Lesotho expulsion threat

From Mike Pitso in Maseru

All members of the Pan-Africanist Congress of South Africa have been threatened with mass expulsion from Lesotho, according to a warning given by a senior official of the Government yesterday.

Speaking at a mass meeting demonstrating against the PAC, Mr Francis Matholeane, director of political affairs in the Prime Minister's Office, warned the refugees to stop their hostile attitude to the Lesotho Government or they would all be expelled.

Mr Matholeane accused six PAC refugees of attacking a platoon of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force when they were shot dead in south-east Lesotho a fortnight ago.

He accused the PAC of training members of the Lesotho Liberation Army in Libya. Three weeks ago, a member of the African National Congress, Samson Zwindi, allegedly shot dead a member of the Lesotho security forces. He appeared in court this week on a charge of murder. There are more than 1,000 refugees in Lesotho.

A senior official of the Lesotho Government has accused the refugees of aligning themselves with opposition parties in Lesotho since the country became independent from Britain in 1966.

and women's groups have beaten and even killed people suspected of supporting minority parties. He said that often they were encouraged to perform such acts by Zanu leaders and were unhampered by police.

Mr Mugabe praised Mr Mugabe's Government for extending health and education to all Zimbabweans. He said that Zanu should approach the elections with confidence.

But he said that Zanu's antagonistic attitude towards Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zanu party had blurred the line between the violent anti-government dissidents and legitimate political opposition.

Mr Mugabe said that the Commission, the leading crusader for black rights during the 1960s and 1970s, would monitor the party's youth

From Barry Strech in Cape Town

The South African Government yesterday banned for three months all public meetings calling for workers to stay at home in 16 Eastern Cape and two Transvaal districts.

It also banned all meetings of 20 anti-apartheid organisations in those districts, including those held by the United Democratic Front (UDF), a non-racial alliance of more than 600 organisations.

All outdoor meetings, except sports gatherings and bona fide church meetings, are already banned, and last week the government banned all indoor meetings dealing with boycotts of schools and universities.

In Uitenhage yesterday, police evidence before the Kammagere Commission into the killing of 19 people in the township of Langa last week appeared to contradict the version of the incident given in the South African Parliament by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange.

Police records showed that 36 shots were fired although Mr le Grange said 43 cartridges were used. He also said the police had been surrounded and pelted with stones, sticks and other missiles including petrol bombs.

But Warrant Officer Jacobus Pentz said in evidence that he had only seen one object "that looked like a petrol bomb, but I don't know if it was thrown." He also said he had not seen any petrol bomb thrown. "I

would have seen it if it had caught fire. We were pelted with stones but there were no sticks or other objects thrown."

WO Pentz denied that the minister's statement was an untrue exaggeration but said "some bits are not precise. It could be a little exaggerated, but most of the points are there."

Mr le Grange also said the leader of the procession had been dressed in black and had carried a brick, but WO Pentz said this was not as he had

able to lead the masses in disciplined resistance to apartheid. The government must bear the consequences of this action."

Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, condemned "this type of repression" and said: "These banings can only exacerbate the situation because we will find that people hold meetings, anyway."

Dr Beyers Naude, who succeeded Bishop Tutu as general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said the move was an act of desperation on the part of the government to stem the tide of liberation.

"We believe this action can only lead to further tension and polarisation because it does not address itself to the real problems or the solution."

Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, the leader of the Opposition in the White House of Parliament, said the Government could not stop agitators from exploiting the grievances of people through strong-arm tactics.

Early yesterday, police from the "independent" Ciskei homeland detained a number of members of the UDF and the South African Allied Workers' Union, which is based in the homeland.

In Durban yesterday, 18 young men were arrested and 16 leaders of the UDF and the Allied Workers' Union, facing treason charges appeared in the local magistrate's court in an attempt to obtain bail.

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Army quells Sudan riots

From Ed Hooper in Khartoum

Khartoum was quiet yesterday after three days of food riots which had brought the Sudanese capital to a standstill.

With 1,500 already arrested by the security forces, and with troops strategically positioned around town, it appeared that most would-be demonstrators had decided to remain at home.

The traditional inertia of the Friday day of prayer, combined with the current petrol shortage and car owners' unwillingness to risk further damage to their vehicles, kept Khartoum almost empty of traffic and people.

Meanwhile, the senior UN official in the Sudan, Mr Arthur Holcombe, the UN resident coordinator, emphasised the close relationship between the current disturbances and the drought that is ravaging large areas of the country.

Mr Holcombe clearly felt that the riots were under control for the time being. It is important to remember that this is not the first time that this has happened — there have been at least 10 food riots in different regions of northern Sudan over the past year.

We're likely to see a steady build up of desperation, fuelled by growing starvation, and it can't help but have political implications," he said.

When asked about the stoning of US embassy cars — most embassy staff had stayed at home over the past year — Mr Holcombe replied: "International Monetary Fund and US pressures to deregulate prices and let them find their own levels can only lead to greater social tensions, as we have seen in Egypt."

The price of dura (sorghum) and wheat are already out of the reach of most people who cannot pay \$38 to \$42 for a 200lb sack which will hardly last a family for a month."

Despite the additional pledges made to famine-hit African countries at the recent aid donors' conference in Geneva, Mr Holcombe suggested that insufficient attention was being given to the famine, and that this partly stemmed from justifiable world concern over the famine in Ethiopia.

Mr Holcombe added that pledges had been made to Sudan, but would come into effect over the next 18 months, when Sudan was in need of immediate food shipments. The estimated shortfall for the latter half of 1985 still stood at over 500,000 tonnes.

"We are trying to get this country through to the next harvest without serious social and economic collapse," he said. "Otherwise we're going to see more camps, more concentrations of destitute people looking for food aid, and it will be an ugly scene."

An announcement yesterday indicated that new austerity measures are on the way.

Reuters adds: The Sudanese army moved yesterday to guard government buildings and other strategic points in Khartoum.

Groups of soldiers in combat fatigues guarded ministries, petrol stations, and the main bridge across the Nile to Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman. Riot police remained on the streets in large numbers.

Diplomats said at least three people died in disturbances, but the Government has reported only one death that of a year-old baby hit by a stone. Some of those arrested by police were fogged.

India goes to Moscow in search of advanced arms

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

The Defence Minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, left for Moscow yesterday heading a delegation that will focus on sophisticated weapons India needs to see it into the next decade.

The Soviet Union remains India's biggest supplier, despite recent efforts to diversify. The Russians have already agreed to sell India the new MiG29 fighter, which is hardly on the drawing board and has been offered to no other foreign buyer.

India is determined to remain the dominant military power in south Asia, but the emphasis is shifting from land and air to the sea. A new naval plan for 1985-90 was reported this week to provide

for better aerial reconnaissance, more modern warships and submarines, long-range missiles, and an enhanced electronic warfare capability.

Mr Rao is expected to 13 Harrier jump jets from Britain. India is expected to be confirmed soon. Harriers are already in service with the Indian navy, but the new contract was delayed as a mark of Delhi's displeasure at Whitehall's supposedly soft treatment of Sikh separatist exiles.

Indian defence planners are puzzled by the rapid expansion and upgrading of the Pakistani navy, not least because its ostensible target, Afghanistan, is landlocked. They do not have the paranoid to see it as a greater threat to India. In any case, they feel they dare not ignore the challenge.

All of these are seen as endangering India's one veteran aircraft carrier, the Vikram, bought from Britain in the fifties, and the venerable Bombay High oilfield in the Arabian Sea. India, as one commentator put it yesterday, has no adequate means of protecting the oil wells and fishing grounds in the 200-mile "exclusive economic zone" off its long coastline.

In the longer term, India is also concerned about the prospect of a Chinese deployment of submarines armed with nuclear missiles in the upper Arabian Sea. It is assumed here that these would be designed to give Peking a second-strike nuclear capability against the Soviet Union. But again India could hardly ignore it.

Mr Deng Xiaoping has gone on the offensive against critics of his economic reform programme, saying that the country should take courage and join in "China's second revolution."

Mr Deng's remarks were splashed across the front page of the People's Daily which also reported the proceedings of the National People's Congress where problems of corruption, overpricing, and budgetary deficits have been revealed.

"The problems that have occurred recently were nothing we did not expect," Mr Deng said. "What we are doing needs courage, but unless we do it the future will be hard. Reform is China's second

Deng attacks critics of his economic reform programme

By John Gittings

The Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, has gone on the offensive against critics of his economic reform programme, saying that the country should take courage and join in "China's second revolution."

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"The problems that have occurred recently were nothing we did not expect," Mr Deng said. "What we are doing needs courage, but unless we do it the future will be hard. Reform is China's second

revolution."

The Chinese argue that mistakes are bound to be made when they are venturing into the unknown, and that most other Socialist countries have done worse without even venturing to reform.

Speaking to a visiting Japanese politician, Mr Deng insisted that China would be quick to weigh its experiences and change wherever it seemed necessary.

Earlier this week the congress was told by Premier Zhao Ziyang that all central and local government budgets must be cut by 10 per cent this year, and that stern measures will be taken against those who seek advantages at the expense of the state.

The budget deficit has largely been caused by increases in wages and in the supply of commodities which while helping to satisfy consumer demands also encourage inflation.


China has drawn heavily on its large foreign exchange reserves, the China Daily reported yesterday, in order to seek up excess purchasing power created by the reforms.

Vice-premier Yao Yilin said that China has spent \$2 billion on buying popular import goods, although total reserves still stand at \$18.8 billion.

But the image of austerity is not to be restored even though the press has begun to warn against excessive expectations. Oil workers at the Daqing oilfield in north-east China, once celebrated for their prospecting work in the frozen mud, are now the subject of news features on their opportunities for relaxation at the movies, by the swimming pool, and on the dance floor.

A State Planning Commission spokesman said yesterday that the Government will try yet again to concentrate investment on the essential infrastructural fields of energy, transport, and telecommunications which continue to lag behind expansion of productive capacity. Almost 40 per cent of all capital spending this year has been allocated to these fields.

Meanwhile Vice-premier Li Peng, who recently visited Moscow for Mr Chernenko's funeral, has accepted an invitation to visit Poland this year.



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Diana Petry heads for the Fens and wanders towards Spalding by way of Ely, Wisbech, and the Sixteen Foot Drain

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While Stephanie Nettel floats over the Masai Mara and comes down to earth with a bump, Kim Hull offers advice on how to take off in new directions

Blowing hot and cold in the hunt for game



MOST of us had been imagining a cold eerie silence as we hung high in the still dawn air, but here we were peeling off our sweaters and straining to catch the chirpy patter of our pilot over the roaring blast of the hot air on our backs.

Just below us the wildlife of the Masai Mara fled at our approach, while above us we were dive-bombed by a brave but deranged little lilac-breasted roller. It's often possible, we were told, to come really close to the animals, but it's hard to see how with that racket going on. The tales of baboons dropping 100 feet from the trees in fright, or of the basket nearly knocking a vulture chick out of its nest, sounded more plausible.

Peter Langford, of Kenya Balloons and Safaris, sends up two vast and gaudy bal-

loons every morning of the tourist season — wind permitting — from Little Governors Camp. We'd got up at 5.30 and driven over to Kichwa Tembo for the 6.15 start to catch the right layer of air.

I was in the larger balloon — at 240,000 cubic feet the biggest commercial balloon in the world, 98 feet high, 60 feet diameter, costing £25,000 — piloted by John Coleman from Market Harborough, 19th in the previous year's world balloonist championships. He keeps up a jovial stream of fascinating information and awful puns. "And now we have the seven o'clock gnu" which were wasted on that morning's French audience.

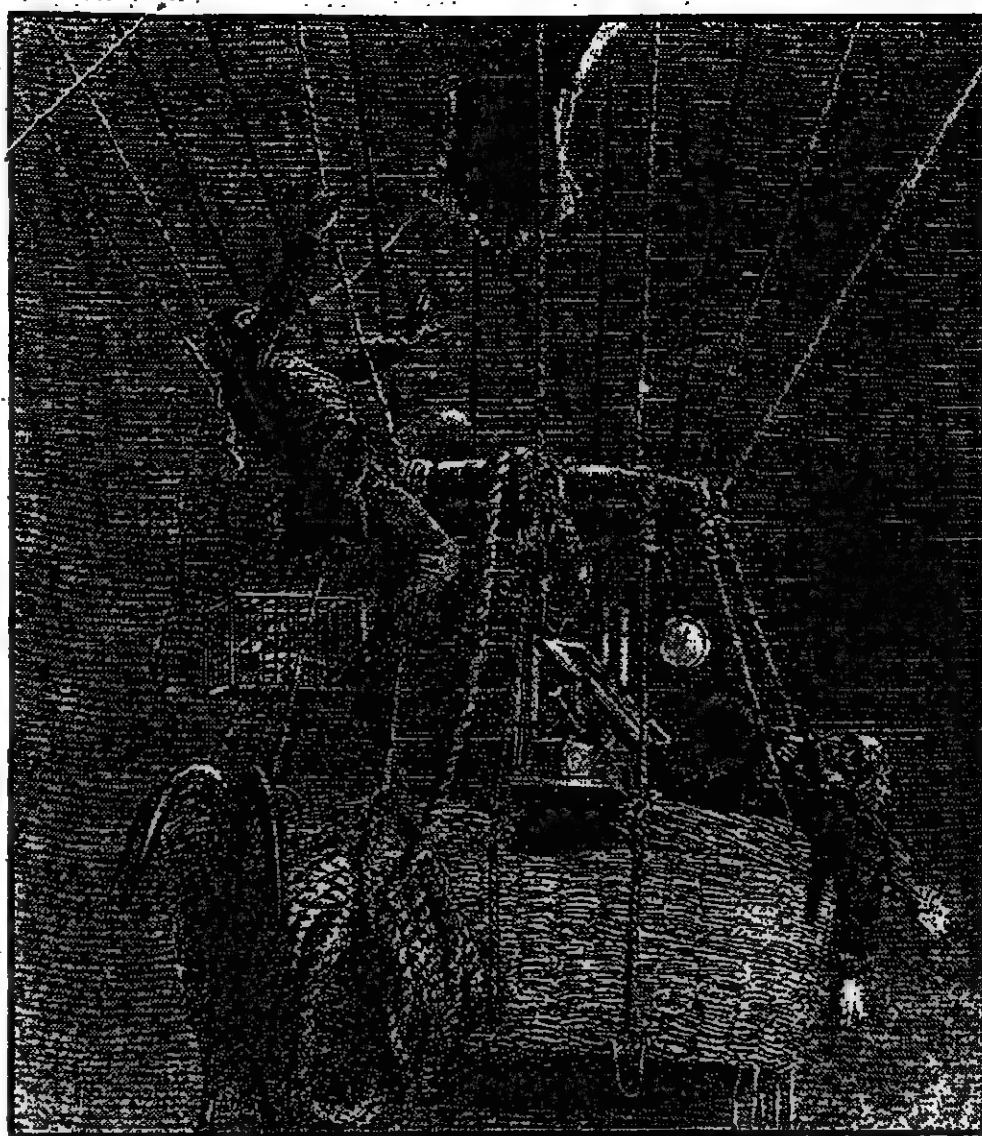
Its three burners give off eight million British thermal units (using butane in Kenya, not propane). There is one liquid fire for quieter game viewing, but exact temperatures are essential at low levels, so constant thunderous bursts from the burners are inevitable. Once real height is gained — it can

climb 500 feet a minute — it is able to float in total silence, and for a brief spell of our half-hour trip we looked down on the great escarpment and saw the endless plains stretching on to distant Tanzania and the Serengeti.

On the ground the balloons are tracked on their unpredictable course by the camp's minibuses, filled with support crew and the makings of the champagne breakfast that would reward the intrepid travellers. It turned out we deserved it, too, for, as Coleman put it, we "arrived rather than landed," dragging along sideways on our backs, with his fierce Barbara Woodhouse cries of "Stay! Stay!" getting through even to the French.

It wasn't quite the spiritual experience I'd heard about — its air of unreality came more from having spent £150 in just over half an hour — but it was grand in its way. I'm glad I did it.

Going up



Heading for the clouds, with and without wings

HOT-AIR BALLOONING

ALL PASSENGERS who fly in this country do so as part of a training session or as members of a syndicate or club. Consequently, the best way to get a flavour of ballooning is with one of the concerns who give courses over a week or weekend during the spring and summer months. If you get hooked, purchase prices start at about £3,000 for a good second-hand item.

CONTACT ADDRESSES:
The British Balloon and Airship Club, 1 Shirley Road, Maidenhead, Berks, London Region: Wicky, Spire, 20e Breakspere Road, Brockley, London SE6. Tel: 01-691 4908. Have their own balloon for use by club members.
Milfield School, Milfield, Village of Education, Street, Somerset. Tel: 0458 42291.

Ext 45. One week courses July 28 to August 23.
Adventure Balloons, 37 Mail Road, Havermersmith, London W6. Tel: 01-741 0431. Courses most weekends from April to September from various locations.

RANG-GLIDING
ALTHOUGH hang-gliding gives the closest sensation to flying like a bird, it was yet another spin-off from the American moon shot programme of the early seventies.

Analogies with Icarus are inevitable as you rise up to 1,000 feet in five minutes, harnessed beneath a 30 foot span of rip-stop nylon. Flights over 50 miles are not uncommon — experienced pilots even use the grouping of birds to establish the presence of the next uplifting gust of thermal.

Since it is illegal to buy a hang-glider without a pilot's licence, the first step for the would-be bird-person is to qualify on a training centre's glider.

A minimum of five days' training is needed. With favourable weather you can expect to make your first short flight after two days. The training covers the mechanics of assembly, rigging, and landing technique — your first hops are made under supervision with tether lines to the glider.

Hang-gliding requires hills as take-off points, so Wales has become a popular choice, as well as providing some impressive scenery to soar over.

A beginner's craft starts at about £200. As it folds up to 15 feet or less, it can be transported on the roof of a car.

CONTACT ADDRESSES:
The British Hang-Gliding Association, Cranfield Airfield, Cranfield, Beds. Tel: 0234 731688.
The Welsh Hang-Gliding Centre, The Ranch, Crickhowell, Riding Stables.

Llangatlock, Powys, South Wales. Tel: 0673 810018.
Courses in hang-gliding to pilot status.

LIGHT AIRCRAFT

THE big advantage of light aircraft over other air-based pursuits is that you can actually use it as a method of transport. Once you have got your private pilot's licence, you could fly to France for Sunday lunch, or go to see friends at the other end of the country.

Getting your licence costs about £2,000 for the 40 hours supervised flying necessary, but that's no reason to put off having a trial flight at your local airfield. The average price is about £15, which gives you about 20 minutes in the air.

After a short theory lecture around a balsa wood model, it's a short walk across the tarmac to the cockpit of the real thing, where the instructor spends a further quarter of an hour running through the operation of the dual controls. "Oscar, Oscar, control tower, request clearance for take

off," and you're taxi-ing along the apron towards the runway. As the plane rushes up to 70 knots, the instructor hands over to you. A gentle pull back on the controls and you're off. Twenty minutes gives you time to climb to 2,000 feet, fly towards the nearest town ("hello, mum"), complete a few turns, and then head back for home, with all those gauges to watch, the first flight is intense and can be addictive.

CONTACT ADDRESSES:

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, 50a Cambridge Street, London SW1. Tel: 01-834 5631.

The British Airways Flying Club, Wycombe Air Park, Bucks. Tel: 0494 26262. Fly Piper Tomahawk 2-seater training aircraft. Trial lessons from £13.

PARACHUTING

ONE of the best known branches of sport flying to evolve in the post-war years, it's also one of the briefest. A 2,000-foot drop to earth lasts just two and a half minutes from that dry-mouthed moment when you stepped out of the back of the aircraft to touch-down on terra firma.

As training is required before you can parachute, you have to go to a parachuting school and do a weekend course. It's an all-year activity prevented only by too strong a wind or insufficient visibility in which to fly.

A day is spent learning the skills of free-fall stability, how to land and pack your parachute, then you are ready for the first static-line jump. The main chute ensures that the main chute opens, but if

that fails, a second reserve parachute is carried on the jumper's chest. This is operated separately by the ripcord. When you have about a dozen jumps behind you, the silence of longer free-fall flights is possible, where a descent of up to 8,000 feet can be made before deploying the chute at just 1,500 feet from the ground.

The minimum age is 16, while over 40s will need the medical form signed by their GP. First time courses start at around £75 with further jumps costing from £4 upwards. It depends what height you fall from.

CONTACT ADDRESSES:

The British Parachute Association, Kimberley House, 47 Vaughan Way, Leicester. Tel: 0533 38635.

Capital School of Parachuting, 110 Barnfield Gardens, London SE18. Tel: 01-854 7030.

London Parachuting, 4 Highview, 75 Epsom Road, London SE18. Tel: 01-317 9059.

Kim Hull

Birdwatching and water sports are the principal attractions of the Dutch lake district, reports Cyril Bracegirdle, who also has an eye for the cows

Hides and Sneek



FOR MOST tourists Holland comprises Amsterdam, the Hague and, in season, the tulip fields. Many never venture across the great dike which encloses the inland lake called the Friesland, formerly the Zuider Zee, to the northerly province of Friesland. This is the Dutch lake district, a region with scores of lakes connected by a network of canals. Here also are the Eelven Towns, each with its own individual attractions.

The area well deserves its reputation as a yachting paradise. In summer the myriad sails swarm over 22,000 acres of water like clouds of butterflies seen across the flat landscape. There are yachting hotels, craft of every variety for hire, and provision for every aquatic sport imaginable. The four biggest lakes are in the south-west corner of the province, and a major factor in the popularity of Friesland with yachting folk is that on most days there is a stiff sailing breeze.

Friesland is also where the cows come from — our cows, the black and white Friesians that chew cud on so many English fields. And the Dutch are well aware of the debt they owe them. In the centre of Leeuwarden, stately capital of the province and 2½ hours by train from Amsterdam, is a bronze statue of a cow with its udder — "Our Mother" — inscribed on its pedestal. More than 40 per cent of Leeuwarden's population is engaged in the dairy business directly or indirectly, and the city has the biggest covered cattle hall in Europe, housing around 10,000 animals at the twice monthly market.

Leeuwarden is of especial interest for Americans. In February, 1982, the community was the first to vote for recognition of the new USA. A tablet in the Town Hall commemorates this event. Also in the Town Hall is preserved a document stating that Peter Stuyvesant was born in Friesland. The name had no connection with cigarettes in those days. This was the Stuyvesant who practically founded New York under the name of New Amsterdam. His home farm of Great Bouwerie gave its name to New York's Bowery. More surprisingly, Maastricht also came from Leeuwarden.

The capital is sparsely provided with restaurants, but one useful refuelling stop is Friesland. Friesland has a long shoreline with the IJsselmeer which is well suited to aquatic activities. The lake's commercial traffic is mainly towards the Amsterdam side, leaving the Friesland shore fairly free for pleasure sailing. Beyond the dykes, some of Friesland's off-shore islands offer a different sort of paradise — for bird-watchers. The most southerly island, Texel, has small lakes and salt-water inlets which make a happy hunting ground for the European spoonbill, and for waders, marsh-harriers, bitterns, black-tailed godwits and numerous terns. Tourists typically take home clocks and pottery. The clocks' distinctive features are the Biblical scenes painted on them. The pottery is ornate with scrollwork, the material for which is acquired on in the body through the narrow end of a cow's horn. Nothing of the cow is wasted in Friesland.



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Russia is already celebrating her long-suffering part in the defeat of Hitler's armies. Martin Walker, in Moscow, talked to some of the ordinary heroes that made victory possible in a war they will never forget

The bodies scattered over the field like potatoes...

Svetlana Alexeyevich was born seven years after the war ended, but it is through her eyes that the new Soviet generation has come to comprehend it. She comes from Byelorussia, where every fourth person died in the war. She spent five years on the research for her book, conducted over 500 interviews, and travelled the USSR with her tape recorder, talking to women about what the war had done and meant to them.

The book *War's Unwomanly Face* has caught the Soviet imagination in a quite remarkable way. You can hardly open a magazine or a literary journal without reading an extract, or an interview with the calm, attractive young woman who has brought the art of oral history to life.

Radio serials, TV shows and films have been developed from her book, most notably Victor Daskin's *I Met You* which won the Silver Dove at the Leipzig Film Festival. Even after publication, the book will not let her go. She has received thousands of letters from women war veterans who read her book, and now want to have their own stories and memories recorded somewhere, somehow.

"Every letter, every testimony is history, part of the people's memory, and that is an incalculable moral wealth," says Svetlana. "We need this in our spiritual

on the walls of the Reichstag. One read: 'I, Sophie Kuntsevich, came to Berlin to kill war.'

"Although I was born after the war, my life was shaped by it. I am part of a generation which still has its own accounts to settle. My own family lost eleven of its members. My own 'war' which is how I think of this book, lasted for five years and I was often shattered by what I heard. At times, I felt I could not endure any more... and I kept a diary of my travels and meetings, my reactions to hearing of war from its heroes and victims. For a long time, I did not dare use the words 'I feel' or 'I doubt' because my own feelings and doubts felt as nothing compared to their feelings and torments.

"I deliberately avoided famous snipers or renowned pilots and partisans, as so much had already been written about them. More than once, the women said to me 'We were just ordinary girls who served in the army. Like so many others.' And these were precisely the people I was looking for. One of them, a medical orderly, said to me 'If you look at the war with our women's eyes, it would seem the most dreadful thing imaginable — and that is the idea underlying my book.'

Svetlana's long pilgrimage among the women veterans forced them to reassess their own memories, to put into words not only memories, but fears and images that had long been hidden by 40 years of peace. One girl, a signaller called Xenia Volegzhnina, fumbled for words to describe the battle of Stalingrad. Suddenly, the image came to her. "Potatoes," she said.

"There were scores of dead. They were scattered over this huge field, like potatoes brought to the surface by plough. They lay in their positions. They were collected like potatoes. Even horses, such sensitive animals, who walk in fear of stepping on a man, even they were no longer afraid of the dead... the potatoes."

Stalin? What became of Lenin?

FIVE months before Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, the young officer cadet and boxing champion Vladimir Karpov was arrested. Just hours before the passing-out parade that was to give him his lieutenant's epaulettes. He had wondered aloud to a fellow cadet why they only ever heard of Stalin, and whatever happened to Lenin?

He spent the whole of 1941 and the first half of 1942, while the Soviet armies reeled under the German assault, in a prison camp. He bombarded the Supreme Soviet with written appeals, asking to be allowed to use

his military training at the front — in any capacity. Eventually, he was told they would send him to a penal battalion.

"There were no medals for us in the punishment battalion — the first and last award we could expect was to win back our good names, and you had to pay blood for that. In very special circumstances, you could get relieved from penal battalions for particularly heroic acts. But for most of us the only relief was wounds or death," he said, sitting in the editor's office of the most prestigious Soviet literary journal, *Novy Mir*.

Karpov is the man who came back from the prison camps to a seat in the Supreme Soviet, the USSR's parliament. He sits on the foreign affairs commission that is chaired by Mikhail Gorbachev, was a member of the official Soviet delegation to Indira Gandhi's funeral, and this month a special edition of 2,200,000 copies of his novel on the war is to be published.

"After the battles of 1942 and 1943, I was given my first award, a 'small square' of paper that I still keep — my official amnesty. I was then a fully-fledged soldier in the Red Army, and because I had been a champion boxer, I was recommended for the reconnaissance service. Our job was to go behind enemy lines and bring back 'tongues', prisoners for interrogation."

"I knew that if I survived the war, life would not be easy with that enemy of the people label still hanging over me. Without any professional training, what could I do after the war? Could I go back to my home town of Tashkent with my head held high, and remove from my family the undesired shame of my arrest?"

"I decided that if I showed myself to be a brave soldier, I might win an award for my life would be easier. I won the 'for courage' medal, and then the Red Star and I was already dreaming of a third award. I had just turned 20."

"In the reconnaissance section, your name was not put forward for an award for a brave deed alone. There was an unwritten rule. Pilots had to shoot down 20 enemy planes. We had to bring back at least 20 'tongues'. I brought back 45 'tongues' before my commander put me forward for an award, because of the black spot on my record. When he first proposed me, the papers came back with the words 'scrawled on them' 'do you know who it is you nominate?'"

"Then I was summoned by Vasily Boiko, a member of the Military Council, who asked me to tell my whole story, and then suddenly asked 'if it was not time, I joined the Communist Party. I became a member, and then I was wounded, and was sent back to a Moscow hospital. On my first day of convalescence, I saw a decree on the front page of the paper with my name on it, as a hero of the Soviet Union. I went back to the Moscow HQ to find out if it was really me, and I nearly got arrested. The officer asked why I thought it

should be me and I told him 'because I did not spend my war sitting where you sit now'."

Karpov stayed in the army until 1963, retiring as a regimental commander, and spent his last years in uniform attending night school at the Moscow Literary Institute. He had always wanted to write, he said, and he was lucky enough to be sharing classes with a gifted group of students that included Yuri Bondarev, one of the most impressive Soviet novelists now writing. Bondarev's last novel *Igra*, attacked as anti-Soviet in some official



Vladimir Karpov: particularly heroic

quarters, has been staunchly defended by Karpov, who counts him as one of the star writers with *Novy Mir* (*New World*).

"After I was given the 'hero' award, I went home to Uzbekistan, and the First Secretary of the Party took me aside and told me the star I had won would help me through life, but it was like climbing a mountain. Anybody else could trip, fall down, and then just carry on climbing. But not me. If I fell again, the gold star would be a heavy burden. If I failed to justify the confidence that the party and the people had vested in me, it would be much, much more difficult ever to rise again. I never forgot that."

The long haul to victory

THE Anglo-American Manhattan Project to produce the atom bomb was probably the biggest single industrial operation of the war. But it was dwarfed by the efforts the Russians made to shift almost half of their industrial capacity out of the path of the advancing Germans. Nikolai Libedinsky remembers it well. He had just graduated as an engineer and was working in a new factory near Moscow that was producing anti-aircraft artillery.

"We had planned it for weeks ahead, and in one night, when the Germans bombing raids already under way, we began to load the machine tools onto the trains

for the long haul east to the Urals.

"Apart from the time of the journey, we did not lose a single day of production. When we unloaded at the far end, there was power and water and raw materials and spare parts, and we set up the machines on the new concrete floors and started production again. There was no root to the factory. The walls were still being built. The dormitories for the workers were still being built, but we kept on producing the 'guns,' he remembers.

"When we got to the Urals, what surprised me most was not that our own plant was ready to start production, but that right beside us was another plant. They intended to double production — not just to keep it going. The production targets were being increased all the time, by the workers themselves, not by management. There was no time off, no holidays. And most of the workers were women and teenagers. More and more of the men were called to the front."

In the five months between the German invasion and the Russian counter-attacks at the battle of Moscow, a total of 1,523 of the biggest industrial complexes in the country were shipped back to safety. Almost 700 of them went to the Urals, another 300 were sent beyond the Caspian Sea to Kazakhstan, another 250 to central Siberia — and looking back, their relocation laid the basis for the postwar explosion of industrialisation in the far corners of the USSR.

"I remember the industrial help we got from the allies. The Studebaker cars were magnificent, beautiful machines — we relied on them. The Dodge trucks were less reliable, always breaking down. We did not get as much as we needed — I think the Soviet Union received about one third of the American lend-lease supplies that Britain got, but we needed everything we could lay our hands on."

"I was brought into the central state planning office in 1943," he went. Professor Libedinsky stayed there ever since, built up and ran his complex, and is now deputy chairman.

"I was working on the targets for the Five-Year Plan once the war was over, and young and enthusiastic as I was, even I didn't believe that we could get back to the pre-war levels of non-military output in five short years. Somehow, we did it in three. There was a spirit about people in those times, a determination to get work done. It is hard to describe — it was not a Kamikaze-style heroism. It was more awesome than that. You felt you were part of something unstoppable."

Signal from the summit

TODAY, Lyubov Korotayeva is a Moscow granny who is delighted that she has just

Going like ghosts into battle: Russian soldiers launch an attack on a German position near Moscow

acquired a rare ticket to the puppet theatre for her grandchild. But every February on the radio, they play her song: "Do you remember comrades, the white snows of Mount Elbrus, and the message we left in the grenade?"

In February of 1943, 20 red army mountaineers climbed the highest peak in the Caucasus, ordered to rip down the swastika banner the German mounting troops had planted there when they climbed it in the softer weather on the previous August.

"We set off at 2 am and it was bitterly cold," Lyubov remembers. "The wind had polished the ice so it was like glass. When we reached it, the summit was dead and bare. The winds had blown the Nazi flags away, but we planted our own red banners, fired a salute from our machine pistols and embraced. This year there were only 10 of us still alive for our annual reunion."

The song was written about Lyubov and the mountaineers some years after the war, when climbers discovered a small cairn on one of the lesser summits. The cairn was topped by a defused grenade with a message inside that read: "On the day the enemy started to run, we climbed here without ropes or tents, in great coats and yelkeni (felt boots) to point the way for other troops. It was signed by Lyubov and a mountain instructor, and Soviet radio launched a nation-wide appeal to find her."

"I was then working in a small college, teaching chemistry. I had just come out of hospital after having TB. I remember the doctor asked me if I had ever been really cold, and I said no. I had forgotten the time when my comrades had chipped me free from the ice."

"We climbed this ridge to spot the German artillery positions, and then 50 metres below us, we saw hundreds of Germans. We did not dare move, because if they had seen us they would have found all our troops. So we lay there all day, not moving, until the Germans began to withdraw. It was then that I put the note in the grenade. It was the winter of the great victory at Stalingrad."

Now a chemistry professor at Leningrad University, teaching the third world students, she says she remembers the war as a radio operator, when the war began Lyubov was a keen mountaineer, and worked in summers as a climbing instructor in the Caucasus. When the war broke out, she was assigned to a radio school, and was then sent behind the German lines as radio operator with a partisan group.

When the Germans began their drive into the Caucasus, our troops were taking heavy losses because they did not know the mountains. Avalanches, the cold, the sickness — they were all dangerous and the Germans had specially trained mountain troops. Stalin issued an order for all climbing experts to be transferred to mountaineering schools for the troops, so I was brought back from behind the lines, back to the mountains."

A farm full of heroes

ALEXANDRA Monakhova is a small, bird-like woman with a rare and hesitant smile that can suddenly lighten her face. She runs the Communards Collective Farm near Moscow, sending 50 tons of fresh milk a day to the capital, and like so many of her generation, never forgetting the war.

"Our farm's chief agronomist, he reminds me every time I see him. I remember when he came to see us straight from hospital, with his empty sleeve pinned up. The military hospitals were so full, they would send the wounded on to a farm to convalesce, and do what work they could. I remember when he started to study to get his qualifications, learning to write his notes left-handed after a day in the fields. We can't forget."

"I was a farm worker all through the war, growing potatoes and vegetables. We were all women and children, and some old men, old enough to remember other wars. But mainly we were women."

"I remember one day we were in the fields and someone came running with a copy of Pravda that said the Germans had hanged Tanya. She was a famous partisan, a guerrilla, and the Germans stripped her naked and hanged her in the vil-



Alexandra Monakhova: weeping over Pravda

lage of Petrichchevo, not far from Moscow. I think that was the only time we all broke down and cried, standing there in the fields, crowding round that copy of Pravda."

"There was another time. They sent a boy to us from the hospital, he weighed less than 30 kilos. We were strong then, after forking up potatoes and carrying the big sacks of them, and my heart just broke as I carried that boy. We saved him, in the end, and built him up again. Somehow, we found time to do things apart from farming."

"The winter of 1941, we built defence lines near Moscow, trenches and tank-traps, just with spades, and burning

fires on the ground to melt it enough to we could dig it. We voted to excuse the girls who were breast-feeding because this work was so hard.

"We only had enough fuel to thaw the ground, so we would cram ourselves 20 and 30 into a room to stay warm, too tired to sleep, and then we would all write letters to the military hospital, our farm had adopted. We didn't know who the poor boys were, but we made sure they got letters, even from strangers. But the thing about the war, there weren't any strangers."

Wives at the front line

IN the May of 1944, after the heavy battles to force the Germans back across the River Dnieper, Alexander Solzhenitsyn and his battalion were some way behind the front lines near the small town of Zlobino.

Solzhenitsyn had just taken leave and made the long, difficult journey to Rostov, in a vain attempt to see his wife, the beautiful Natalia Reshetovskaya. Having failed to find her in Rostov, he arranged for her to join him at the front, a not uncommon practice in the Red Army in wartime.

It took some arranging. Solzhenitsyn's loyal Sergeant Rysa Solomin made the trek to Rostov with a tunic, a military belt, forged epaulettes, a forged red army pass and travel warrant and brought Natalia back to the battalion. She was greeted with a glass of vodka by the battalion commander.

"I stayed for three weeks," Natalia said. "It was a strange time. The battalion was about to be taken over by a new commander who was not sympathetic to wives in the front line, and there were some difficulties with Alexander. He always insisted that as an officer, people ought to stand in attention for him whenever he came into the trench — even me."

This was also the time, according to the brilliant biography of Solzhenitsyn by Michael Scammell, when the young couple began to argue about whether or not to have a family. Solzhenitsyn was against it, and Natalia wanted a child. He later wrote to her: "You think of the future in terms of your personal life and happiness. But the only terms in which I can think are 'what can I do for Leninism'... to write a history of the years after the October Revolution as a work of art is something that perhaps I alone can do."

Those arguments, and those letters, coming just before his arrest, cast a shadow over his years in prison and helped lead to the eventual divorce.

But just 41 years ago, reunited near the battlefield, they knew a little brief and intimate happiness in one of the curious backwaters of the war.

Solzhenitsyn by Michael Scammell (Hutchinson £18).

Manchester Guardian 1945

MARCH 31: Our London Correspondence: Dr Goebbels still tries to instil some vigour into the efforts to keep the home front together — or as much of it as remains under the control of the regime. Appeals for blind faith are issued amidst rapidly growing confusion. At the same time the official propaganda is still engaged in explaining away the seriousness of the situation. Germans at home are told that tank thrusts into the heart

of their moral and political effect than on actual military grounds.

MARSHALS Koniev, Zhukov, and Rokossovsky have been awarded the Order of Victory, said a decree issued by the Supreme Soviet.

The diamond-studded Order of Victory star, worn by the first time by Marshal Stalin at the Teheran Conference, is the highest military distinction of Soviet Russia.

APRIL 4: Our London Correspondence: With the retreat of the Germans in Hungary news is reaching Church agencies in this country of their treatment of Church leaders and property during the withdrawal. At Kecskemet, a Calvinist cen-

tre, two colleges were destroyed, and the Bishop of Debreczen was killed when he ordered the white flag to be hoisted on the entry of the Red Army into the town.

A delegation of Russian officers visited one Calvinist bishop and informed him that he would be able to continue to officiate quite unhindered, while the Moscow radio appealed to both Protestant clergy and Roman Catholic priests to proceed with their work.

APRIL 5: Washington, April 4. Mr. Edward Steinfels, Secretary of State, today expressed confidence that "a fair solution" will be reached by the three-nation commission on the composition of the Provisional Polish Government.

The Secretary of State made the statement in a letter to Senator Taft (Republican, Ohio), who had urged that the United States should "refuse approval of any Provisional Government predominantly under the influence of the Russian Government or not proportionately representative of the Polish people."

Sensor Taft, in his letter, asserted that stories from Poland told of the "arrest of members of the Polish underground and their shipment to Russian concentration camps." He added that it would be a "tragic error" for the United States to recognize any Government under which the Polish armies would be liable or afraid to return to Poland.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY (Saturday, March 30): Sir Robert Armstrong, secretary of the cabinet, 58; Warren Beatty, film actor, 48; Eric Clapton, rock guitarist, 40; Graeme Edge, of the Moody Blues, 42; Rolf Harris, singer, cartoonist, 55; Frankie Lane, singer, 72.

TOMORROW: Herb Alpert, the brassman, 50; Richard Chamberlain, actor, 50; John Lawry, chairman, ACAS, 65; Dame Sheila Sherlock, professor of medicine, London University, 67; David Steel, MP, leader of the Liberal Party, 47; Lord Trefgarne, parliamentary under-secre-

tary of state for the armed forces, 44; Sidney Weighell, former MIB leader, 63.

MONDAY: actress, Ali MacGraw, 47; Debbie Reynolds, 53; and Carol White, 42; Christopher Bishop, managing director, the Philharmonia Orchestra, 58; Tom Jackson, union leader turned bookseller, 50; Baroness MacFarlane, professor and head, department of nursing, Manchester University, 58; Maxwell McGlashan, professor and head, department of chemistry, University College, London, 61; Marie Paterson, national officer, Transport and General Workers' Union, 51; Charles Fricker, United States ambassador to Britain, 54; Steve Race, musician, broadcaster, 64.

TUESDAY: Cecil Bevan, principal, University College, Cardiff, vice-chancellor, University of Wales, 65; Sir Jack Brabham, former world motor racing champion, 59; George MacDonald Fraser, author, journalist, progenitor of Flashman, 60; Paul Gambaccini, pop music critic, 36; Catherine Gascoin, novelist, 56; Sir Alec Guinness, actor, 71; Barry Hills, race horse trainer, 48; Sir Ian Hunter, impresario, 66; Penelope Keith, actress, 46; Michael Rizzello, sculptor, coin designer, 58; Sir Denis Rooke, chairman, British Gas Corporation, 61; Denis Tuohy, television journalist, 48.

WEDNESDAY: Tony Benn, MP, 60; Marion Brando, Hugh Burden, actors, 61 and 72; Theo Crosby, architect, industrial designer, 60; Doris Day, actress, singer, 61; Dennis Farr, director, Courtland Institute Galleries, 56; Helmut Kohl, chancellor, West Germany, 55; Adrian Love, broadcaster, 41; John Virgo, snooker player, 38.

THURSDAY: Peter Altenborough, headmaster, Charterhouse, 47; David Cross, Bishop of Blackburn, 57; Trevor Griffiths, playwright, 50.

FRIDAY: actors: Jane Asher, 39; Sette Davis, 77; Nigel Hawthorne, 56; and Gregory Peck, 69; Verona Elder, runner, 51; Agnetha Faltskog, of Abba, 55; Rom Faneuy, former England footballer, 68; Stanley Orme, MP, 62; Jennifer Henney, ballet dancer, 38; Perreyé von Karajan, conductor, 77.

Greece puts a strain on democracy

A crisis of political legitimacy in Greece is not a matter to be shrugged off lightly. The last one, two decades ago, led directly to a military dictatorship of a thuggish brutality and a political banality unknown in Europe since 1945. The row over the election of a successor to President Karamanlis, who resigned on March 10, will not have such dramatic results. But anything which subverts the fragile democratic consensus which has emerged in Greece since 1974 is deeply subversive of a stable future for the mother of democracies.

The immediate crisis is, of course, one of arithmetic. To elect a successor to Karamanlis, 180 votes were needed in the national assembly. That vote was obtained yesterday for the Pasok (Socialist) government candidate Mr Christos Sartzetakis, but only after much dubious arm twisting of MPs by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu. The crucial vote came from the acting president — a Pasok MP who took up temporary office after the resignation of Mr Karamanlis. Now the official Opposition, New Democracy, says it will refuse to recognise the Socialist president. If confirmed in office, his edict will be challenged through the courts and his decisions boycotted. It is even possible that New Democracy will withdraw from parliament completely.

Behind this arithmetical crisis is a deeper crisis of political style. Mr Papandreu has won a reputation for robust and unpredictable populism coupled with a pragmatic exploitation of anti-Western resentments and anti-Turkish fears. He has rocked the Nato and EEC boats, earning deep suspicion in particular from Washington. In contrast, Karamanlis, a well regarded elder statesman brought back from exile to rebuild democratic Greece after the dictatorship, became a useful symbol of the underlying moderation and stability of the Papandreu regime. Mr Papandreu broke that mould last month when he unexpectedly refused to endorse Karamanlis for a second term. It was a gesture to placate Pasok militants. That refusal was not, as hostile commentators have suggested, an immoral act. Nor was it in any sense anti-democratic. (Why should a majority socialist government automatically feel compelled to re-elect a conservative president?) The refusal could, however, prove to have been a deeply counter-productive decision both for Pasok and for Greece.

A general election must, in any case, be held before autumn. Pasok's snub to Mr Karamanlis means that the Papandreu government will be presented by its rivals as preparing the ground for a period of extreme and autocratic socialist rule. That is almost certainly untrue, but it is perceptions that matter at the ballot box. Equally, the main opposition party, New Democracy (of which Karamanlis is a leading member) has, by its highly technical and legalistic challenge to the president elect, imposed its own additional strain upon the constitution for no very compelling reason. Whenever the election is held it will now be bitterly contested with each party calling into question the democratic credentials and political maturity of the other. So it is not only the Greek constitution which is now open to prolonged questioning. There is also the matter of whether either of the major Greek parties has yet learned to act with the responsibility and sensitivity which a young democracy requires. The danger for Greece is that the barrack room lawyers and the political bullies are once again pushing aside the statesmen.

The shadow of Maria Colwell

Social workers from the London borough of Brent have had a public mauling as a result of the Jasmine Beckford case. And they probably deserve it. It may be that decisive fresh facts will emerge from the inquiry under Mr Louis Blom-Cooper QC which Brent council was quick to set up this week. Nevertheless, the charge sheet against the social services department looks very serious. There was considerable prima facie evidence to show that Jasmine might be at physical risk when Brent decided to return her to the care of her natural mother and her stepfather, Mr Maurice Beckford. Mr Beckford, now serving ten years for Jasmine's manslaughter, had already received a suspended sentence in 1981 for actual bodily harm to Jasmine's sister, as a result of which the girls were originally taken into care. When the girls were later returned to the natural parents, a formal procedure and not in principle a wrong decision, fears were publicly expressed. The foster mother is moved to write in detail to Brent warning of the anger and expressing her fear that the case might come "another Maria Colwell". The social services department clearly saw that there was risk. But over a period between the spring of 1983 and Jasmine's death in July 1984, Brent became persuaded that the risk had diminished. Thirteen months before Jasmine died, Brent even applied for the care order to be terminated, though the application was unsuccessful, while for the last ten months of her life, the department allowed itself to be misled about and marginalised on the care of Jasmine Beckford. The result was the killing of a four-year-old child.

For 12 years all social workers have lived under the shadow of Maria Colwell, whose death in Brighton in 1973 exposed very starkly the weaknesses in statutory child care practice. As a result, procedures have been tightened up in many areas. But not, it seems, in Brent. Indeed the borough's assistant director of social services more or less admitted as much when he told the trial judge this week that changes have been made since the Jasmine Beckford death. The field social worker will now have to ensure that the child is actually seen on each occasion that a visit is made. Paediatric advice will also be on hand. Welcome changes. But why were they not made beforehand? And in how many other social services departments are there still similar loopholes?

For all that, it is easy to be wise after the event. Those of us whose mistakes do not put others at mortal risk should be suitably cautious in censuring the failings of those, like train drivers and social workers, whose errors can have such tragic consequences. So it is because rent-a-quote MPs like Mr Geoffrey Dickens to exploit the Jasmine Beckford case for a generalised attack on social workers. Decision-making in child care cases is about risk assessment. There are no easy answers. Social workers are almost invariably looking for the least damaging choice in a situation governed by inadequate welfare resources, overstretched caseloads and intense competing psychological and emotional pressures. Mrs Thatcher's Britain is a society in which enormous moral stress is placed upon the virtue of the natural family unit and in which the state, not to mention the inner-London boroughs, are discouraged from excessive nannying or jolting of parental responsibilities. It may further be that the Beckford case has important general lessons for social work practice. For example, training may not be doing enough to equip social workers, and health visitors to overcome natural psychological reluctance to broach suspicions of violence. Jasmine Beckford may also have been the victim of the horrendously difficult issues involved in trans-racial fostering policies. Mr Blom-Cooper's inquiry will need to address these tangled issues. But nobody should id themselves that the best answers are anything but the least bad compromises.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Retreat into danger

Sir — Dr Cullen of the Health and Safety Commission chooses (Letters, March 16) to take issue with one point in Sarah Beesley's article about the commission's Plan of Work for 1985-6. She said the plan suggests HSC is proposing to reserve its resources for areas it sees as the greatest risk, the new high technology industries.

Dr Cullen quotes selectively from the report to refute this: "We should reserve our direct intervention and deploy our resources in those areas where the risks are greatest; where high technological capacity has to be brought to bear to diagnose or control risks; where the national or public interest is affected, or where standards applicable internationally, nationally or across industries have to be generated."

He continues, "Elsewhere our aim should be, in the first place, to ensure that the necessary work is done by others, whether on the basis that they create the risks, that they are in a position to understand or locate them best, or that they have or can have a commercial interest in overcoming them."

This can only mean that the HSC is proposing to retreat from active inspection or enforcement. It will set standards, and leave others to apply them — insurance companies, local authorities, and the firms themselves. HSC, however, recognises that other parties might not be keen to take on this role if it gives up.

In fact, local authorities have a real and valued role in health and safety enforcement, but their resources are limited and subject to competing demands. The necessary standardisation could be achieved only by an extra-regulatory function which would consume scarce resources. Self-regulation by individual firms is a back door move to bypass the Health and Safety at Work Act and insurance companies have other commercial pressures.

The HSC plan appears designed to suggest, under the disguise of effective resource allocation, a dilution of the Health and Safety at Work Act to meet the current gross understating in HSE, itself the result of arbitrarily enforced government cuts. Tony Cooper.

Institution of Professional Civil Servants, London SE1.

Spellbound

Sir — The problems we are having with the new Soviet leader's surname will soon cease. It is obvious that we will soon be on first-name terms with such an affable man. Then we need only refer to him as Mike or should it be Mick? — Yours faithfully, Chris Ford, Manchester.

Sir — Perhaps Lord Wintzley will tell us how to spell Gorbachev. — Yours, Adrian Perry, Sandal, W. Yorkshire.

Double-bluff of TV religion

Sir — May I be among the first to congratulate Dr Mark Corner (Face to Faith, March 25) on his simply argued but long overdue criticism of the virtual monopoly held by Christianity in religious broadcasting.

With the possible exception of Channel 4, not only are non-Christian religions given extremely short shrift or treated with condescension, or — most commonly — given separate broadcasting times outside peak viewing periods, but any version of Christianity itself which does not fall into the narrow stream definitions has to fit into a scheme designed to shout at the audience: "This is a minority interest only, so make the tea now."

Perhaps TV religion is actually, then, a clever double-bluff by which the religious establishment, by making themselves so much more visible with their pomp and circumstance, knowing that the vast majority will get bored and switch off — literally and metaphorically. — Frank R. Claburn, Northern Information, London WC2.

Sir — Dr Corner's account of Christian belief in the Trinity is puzzling. As a lecturer in religious studies at Newcastle University, he must realise that he has misstated the traditional Christian explanation of the workings of the Trinity "ad hoc" and that even his use of the word "persons" is an ambiguous use of a technical term.

One is left to speculate as to why he should want to make Christianity before the moment, puzzled: non-Christian theists. He rightly deplores attitudes in a "multi-cultural society like Britain" where we encourage a patronising or contemptuous attitude on the part of some British people towards others. The Rev. J. C. Edwards, London W1.

Suffer South Africa's children...

thousands are held in the same prisons as adults. Although this practice is condemned under international law, it still goes on in many countries, including Britain.

On March 19 last year 403 children — the youngest was 13 — were serving sentences in South African prisons, and 571 were being held in prison either uncharged or untried. In 1983 the numbers of young children imprisoned with their mothers or born in prison was 3,415.

Incidentally, the number of white children in these totals was four, 21, and 11 respectively.

As an example of cases not covered by the above figures, a 10-year-old arrested in Grahamstown was held for three days before charges were withdrawn. Few accused juveniles are legally represented.

Although reported by Reuters news agency, the death in 1983 of a young child while in police hands went unnoticed outside South Africa, despite the many cases of police brutality documented by Amnesty International and others.

Although the whole question of children in prison has become public in South Africa after the publication last December of a report for the Defence for Children International, Geneva, my request to the South African Embassy in London for a breakdown of official statistics remains unanswered after two months.

A DCI report, Children in Adult Prisons, to be published later this year, will leave very few countries with any cause for self-satisfaction about how their child offenders are treated in custody. Already investigative work for the DCI project has had a beneficial effect in some of the 23 countries covered. — Yours truly, Alan Grounds, 48 Holmshurst Road, London SW15.

Sir — Geoffrey Bindman says in his article on South Africa's legal suppression machine (Agenda, Mar 25) that the South African government must be pleased at its success in deceiving the British Government into treating its sham justice as if it were the genuine article. I regret it is Mr Bindman who is deceived.

The British Government — any complex — knows exactly what goes on, fully supports the "set-up" but, under democratic pressure, has to go through the motions of protest and revulsion. Its record is one of complete comprehension coupled with a resistance to do more than strike postures if politically pressed.

Apartheid is extremely profitable — Yours truly, Kevin du Toit, Old Conisdon, Surrey.

At a time when black people in South Africa are being massacred once again in the streets, we deplore the action of the executive of the Anti-Apartheid Movement and call for unified concerted action against the apartheid regime. — Yours truly, Richard House, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, London WC1.

Research suggests that social service record-keeping tends to lapse under unrelenting pressure of crises and limited resources. And it is simple to see how a child in care can "disappear" for some months without trace.

Regardless of statutory requirements — however, recording is central to any therapeutic endeavour planned rather than random intervention is to be made. If social workers wish to retain any scrap of autonomy they must define recording as a central aspect of it.

But the brutal fact remains that without wholesale removal of children from parents at the first signs of risk, a policy which carries horrendous implications — there will continue to be the occasional death of a child in the care of a social worker. — Yours truly, June Himmington, King's Fund College, London W2.

Mr King's letter (March 28) confirms my view that there are many Guardian left-wingers who would condemn police no matter how these affairs were handled. Would Mr King be happier had a few policemen been killed or injured?

Come on, residents of Philbeach Gardens, let's have a few kind words for the men who protected you. (Miss) E. C. Bartlett, London SE10.

Sir — William Middleton has been badly stung if he believes "Who needs sex?" (Futures, March 28) that it is the emergence of a new "industrial revolution" that will induce the bees to swarm. Bees swarm long before drones have been hatched, stimulated by the hatching of one or more queens and workers do indeed result from unfertilised eggs but, to produce the vital life drones, a virgin queen needs sex like everyone else, though everyone else might not be content with perhaps only one mating. — Yours faithfully, (Lord) John Kilbracken, House of Lords.

Sir — It is reported that you are planning to start your own Kings game. Can I just say that if these rumours are true, you will start it without me. J. H. Joyce, Worpleston, Surrey.

Sir — Bingo rings. At last my favourite daily paper is going to offer me a prize for reading it. Please pay no attention to all the dreary nannies who object to these games, ordinary readers would love to play. S. Rowe, Ringley, Derbyshire.

We have received many letters on this subject over the past two days. It is hoped to clarify the Guardian's position soon. — Ed. Gen.

A COUNTRY DIARY

WIMBLEDON COMMON: On March 31, 1771, Gilbert White commented on "the face of the earth naked to a surprising degree." At this time of year we often oscillate between amazement at the bleakness and delight in the sweetness of the season. Certainly the cold has made it a little less easy to enjoy this March, but its pleasures remain. The bare trees almost vibrate with the intensity of a great, it's saving spring note. More discreetly, tucked among the holly leaves, a robin singing so rarely relaxes the grip of winter for all who hear him. On the mere, a single swan practised warfare displays with a rather troubled collie paddling desperately back to the shore. The other birds were in breeding plumage and paired up. Two tufted ducks expressed the delight of spring in their smart dives and snare recapture of poise with a swift toss of the head. A coot surfacing with a piece of delectable debris

All the fun of the air

Sir — In her review of The Last Place on Earth (March 28), Nancy Banks-Smith recalls King Haakon's wartime visit to the BBC to deliver his broadcast. How- ever, such a house lore cherishes a different account: the King, in admiral's uniform, simply announced himself at reception and "Hast- ings" said he was expected by the Norwegian Section.

The commissionaire picked up the telephone. "A. R. Hawkins here to see you." The producer rushed down and conducted the King to the studio in the basement. It was to be some 40 seconds to all at the end. In some haste the producer phoned the record library and asked for a record of fanfares to be sent down which he thought would be a suitably dignified ending to the King's stirring call to his people.

The record arrived just in time and was immediately put on the turntable. To the producer's horror, this is what blared forth from the loudspeakers: "Come on, lads and gents, only up- penace a throw, no knows, but my boys 'ave 'ampstead 'igh on Bank 'olide" with Wurlitzers and a great deal of shrieking in the background.

The record library must have misheard, for what they had sent down was a record of fanfares. The producer wanted to die. However, the King could not have been nicer. He said these things happened — and later he put in a word to save the unfortunate producer from any disciplinary carpeting. Francis Rentoul, 1 Chars Place, London W4.

Every mother is entitled to child benefit — the only state recognition mothers get for the work of bringing up children. Whether or not the man in the house has money or pays tax is no measure of what money the woman has. Very, very few mothers pay 40 per cent tax.

To take money away from mothers is to encourage violence and rape in the family; often child benefit is "the only money I can call my own" — the only money I don't have to pay a man for — the money for a bus ticket to take me and my children away from a violent marriage.

Any form of means testing of child benefit would mean many women would not get the money they're due; would mean governments would have the power to stop child benefit payments to strikers, students, single mothers, or whoever they may want to starve into submission; would mean mothers were pitted against each other to fight over the crumbs.

The introduction of family allowances in 1945 did more to redistribute wealth in women's favour than any other single piece of legislation before or since, and as such was a major victory. In 1973 mothers mobilised to defend this money and are now mobilising again. They are determined that on this issue the Thatcher Government shall be defeated. — Yours sincerely, Suzie Fleming, Montpellier, Bristol.



When the social worker goes on trial

Attempts should be made, however, to learn from the numerous child deaths that have occurred among social service cases since that of Maria Colwell more than 10 years ago. The similarity of events leading to the deaths of Jasmine and Maria is chilling.

Once again social workers have been fobbed off by those supposedly caring for the child. What makes this possible? Society — including, I suspect, social work educators and service department managers — does not wish to acknowledge that social work on occasions is a physically dangerous job. It is difficult to gain entry to someone's home if they are intent on keeping you out, or coming you to a particular part of it.

How many social workers teach techniques for managing this situation, by now common enough in any inner-city case? How many social service departments foster a climate in which a social worker can, without fear of ridicule, express her or his fear of carrying out such a statutory visit?

Over the past year health visitors and GPs have also voiced fears about home-visiting in certain areas, while you run a piece a few months ago about the physical abuse sustained by nurses in casualty departments of inner-London hospitals.

Once a child has been deemed to be "at risk," social service department should not tolerate a visit being made without the child being seen. Arrangements should be commonplace for the social worker to return in the company of a senior colleague or the police.

Although the child is deemed to be the one "at risk," social workers persist in seeing the family as the client. But empathy with the parents must not be allowed to obscure the fact that the child is the client, at least in the statutory sense. And talk-

ing about the child is not enough: she or he must be seen.

Research suggests that social service record-keeping tends to lapse under unrelenting pressure of crises and limited resources. And it is simple to see how a child in care can "disappear" for some months without trace.

Regardless of statutory requirements — however, recording is central to any therapeutic endeavour planned rather than random intervention is to be made. If social workers wish to retain any scrap of autonomy they must define recording as a central aspect of it.

But the brutal fact remains that without wholesale removal of children from parents at the first signs of risk, a policy which carries horrendous implications — there will continue to be the occasional death of a child in the care of a social worker. — Yours truly, June Himmington, King's Fund College, London W2.

Miscellany a little more at large than usual

Sir — It is in moments of high glory that we are most prone to give ourselves away. Oscar awards are sometimes painfully revealing about how a society sees itself.

The Killing Fields was financed in an attempt to exploit America's guilt over its involvement in South-east Asia, yet the (Asian) actor who plays the central role in the film and whose suffering and endurance symbolises the travail of Cambodia is given the award for the "best supporting actor."

Who was he supporting? The image of American capitalism, clearly still much more conscious of the Holocaust than its Asian imperialism set in motion. — Yours faithfully, Arthur Arnold, Shipley, W. Yorkshire.

Sir — A colleague who lives in Philbeach Gardens, London SW5, was telling me of the flowers that had been placed in the road where James Balgrie had died. She

measures are required. I'm not a ranting, right-wing fanatic who wishes to "hang or flog the scound" and I don't believe there is a "cure." My ideas are simply these:

For a trial period, "problem" football grounds should be patrolled by troops, thus withdrawing the fans' principal target, the police force.

Make all games all-terrain: ban British Rail and coach firms from running "soccer specials," the smash - things - in - your - way - day; and ban alcohol.

All serious offenders should receive long-term imprisonment for the less serious, "police supervising orders" when big games are being played.

And the players themselves should be made more accountable for their behaviour on the pitch. — Yours, Mike Hardy, 59 Bideford Green, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.



with 13 lads: 10 had been at the Luton-Millwall game on March 13. I expressed my general concern at the way a small minority of "fans" would eventually cause games to be postponed, clubs to close, and perhaps a play-mass destruction of property and organised attacks on the police supervising the game. Why the police, and why mainly at football matches? On March 15 at the centre for young offenders where I work, I held a discussion

AUDREY INSCHE

WEEKEND SPORT

Richard Baerlein summarises his fancies for the World's greatest steeplechase

No need to guess—West Tip's a snip

The form book rather than the pin is likely to decide this year's Seagram Grand National, when, in my opinion, the winner will start at under 12-1. There are too many horses with no chances at all to make it worthwhile looking for a winner at 50-1 or 100-1.

Peter Luff's 8-year-old gelding, West Tip, has been given the opportunity of a lifetime to win the race. His two victories at Cheltenham and Hereford since the weights came out on January 30 were so impressive that he has earned a rapid rise in the official ratings.

In future handicaps he will be meeting Drumaligan on 11lb, Lucky Vane on 13lb, Greasepaint on 17lb, Halo Dandy on 19lb and Corbiere on 30lb worse terms than he meets them today. With such figures on the flat he would be classed as a handicap certainty and they would back accordingly.

Unfortunately, in the National, other factors are called into play such as ability to handle the jumps, stamina and particularly luck in running. His price was down to 8-1 before the first of the new assessments came out in the Scottish Grand National.

West Tip was given an inspired ride by 21-year-old Richard Dunwoody at Cheltenham, his fourth victory in succession, where he was only in fourth place approaching the final fence. His rider had lost his whip a mile from home and trainer Michael Oliver said that such a lazy horse surprised him by the way he ran on without the help of a whip to win by four lengths.

Had West Tip won the Anthony Mudge, Peter

Cazale Memorial Chase at Sandown on January 5, Oliver was going to wait until next season for his first victory of four in succession was not particularly inspiring, with Canny Danny better only a length giving him 24lb.

It convinced his trainer, however, that his charge had the necessary stamina and was coming to hand fast. He has never stopped improving

since. His delayed appearance on the National Hunt scene was due to a serious accident when hit by a lorry as he was rising six years old. The accident seems to have given him time to mature.

West Tip and his rider make a confident pair. Dunwoody says his mount corrects his own mistakes if left alone. This will be Oliver's third National runner. In 1979 Master H started a

strongly-fancied 10-1 third favourite, only to unseat his rider when going well. That is why the trainer hopes for the best but seems a convinced pessimist.

West Tip, from 33-1, has forced himself into the National picture at 7-1 by his brilliant performances to join the four veterans of a year ago when Halo Dandy, Greasepaint, Corbiere and Lucky Vane finished in that order, following Corbiere and

Greasepaint the first two in 1983, when Halo Dandy ran fourth.

Jenny Pitman has got Corbiere back to his best physically through a session in the hunting field. He has 4lb less than a year ago and meets Greasepaint on 1lb better for one and a half lengths. He looked magnificent when winning at Cheltenham the other day, but he did have an awful lot in hand on the book.

His chance will depend largely on the going for he is most unlikely to fall, having completed the course two years running without a mistake. If the ground is really soft he will be very hard to beat, because he outstays the opposition.

Lucky Vane finished two and a half lengths behind Corbiere a year ago and has 4lb the worst of the weights. That is because Lucky Vane gave Corbiere 6lb and a one length beating in the Foodbrokers Happy New Year Chase at Cheltenham on January 2. Lucky Vane now receives 11lb, a turnover of 17lb in his favour. However, Corbiere is handicapped strictly as a superb Alltree performer.

Toby Balding is delighted with Lucky Vane's performance this season. "He is a much improved horse and his jumping is far better than a year ago," said Toby, who has been looking forward with relief to this race all season. His charge's two mistakes in last year's race cost him plenty of ground.

He made a couple of mistakes in a recent race over three miles at Sandown, when a close third to Dumper, showing unexpected speed from the last fence. He is likely to reverse placings with last year's three if he can complete a clear round.

Dermot Weld has given Greasepaint a special preparation to be at his best on the day in the hope of improving his record of finishing second in each of the last two runnings but I am going to stick to West Tip to win from Lucky Vane and Corbiere.



THRILL OF THE CHASE Some of last year's contenders smash their way through Valentine's

PINSTICKERS' GUIDE

Racing Editor, Harry Heymer, takes a light-hearted look at the runners in today's great spectacle.

CORBIERE: Its fairly easy when you know how — or so they say. Didn't quite make it for the double last year but is in great shape to make amends today.

DRUMALIGAN: Will never beat a retreat, has a touch of class and a classy jockey in John Francome.

GREASEPAINT: Nothing in his make-up to put you off. Is a great performer over these fences, finishing second for the last two years. Third time lucky?

LUCKY VANE: Needs a little luck with his jumping but he certainly stays as he showed when fourth last year. Halo Dandy: A top maybe — but not a flop! — Strong, safe chaser who could easily follow up last year's victory.

BROOKY BANK: Nice one to draw in the office sweep. Eighth to Halo Dandy last year after being damped at the Canal Turn second time round.

FETHARD FRIEND: Not exactly a flyer but he plops on at his own pace and was seventh last year.

CLASSIFIED: May not be good enough for this edition. Stamina could be his downfall.

TACROY: Could be renamed Tacky if he doesn't come up with the goods this time.

Lost a fortune for his connections last year. **LAST SUSPECT:** Doubt if he will have much of a chance to be headed, and when he is, loses interest.

SCOT LANE: By Jack Scott, is not one to give much away and seldom parts with his rider, which is a big asset here.

WEST TIP: Also whispered about in the North, South and East. Nearly died after an accident with a lorry in 1982, which has left a large L-shaped scar. He is far from being a learner, however, and is sure to give young Richard Dunwoody a super first ride over the Aintree fences.

KUMBI: Could be called Chummy. Makes silly mistakes but has run well behind such class horses as Burrough Hill, Lad, Righthand Man and Earl's Brig. Trained by Red Rum man, Ginger McCain.

DUDIE: Over half of him may be dead but he is a fairish performer on heavy ground and a safe jumper.

MUSSO: Good walker but is not a dictator in his quicker paces.

RUPERTINO: Barely in my view.

IMPERIAL BLACK: Actually, he's brown and not all that imperial but his trainer Neville Crump knows what is required to win — he's done it three times before.

SHADY DEAL: Only a shade of his former self. No deal as far as I am concerned.

TURBETTEL: Sounds like a musical box and will probably need a lot of winding up.

TALON: His "mum" was called Belling Bessie, so he could elude his way into the frame. Has been hunting and jumps well.

ONAPROMISE: Not this afternoon however. Not very cooperative these days — must be the headaches.

KNOCKAWAD: Don't knock him if it's really muddy. He loves the stuff, winning six times in it over the last two seasons.

BLACKRATH PRINCE: Nothing royal about his jumping. Often gets a black mark.

HILL OF SLANE: Has uphill struggle. Has not won for two seasons.

ROYAL APPOINTMENT: Has failed to keep a date in the winner's enclosure so far this season.

SOLIHULL SPORT: Even Birmingham based punters will have to be very sporty to put their money on this 11-year-old.

CLONTWORTH: Nice one for the commentators to get their teeth round. Fortunately for them he didn't get beyond the sixth last year.

FAULON: Sounds too much like forlorn for my liking.

RASHFUL LAD: Don't be shy — don't be rash either.

CROSA: Is the only mare in the race, quite attractive too, but can she be trusted?

MR. SNUGG: Doesn't like tight courses and he should have the inside measure of these fences.

GLENFOX: A few sly old punters fancy this improving eight-year-old.

NEVER TAMPER: Good advice in this case.

ROMAN BISTRO: Could be on the menu for Italians but has been pulled up three times from five outings this term.

CAPTAIN PARKHILL: Can't see him earning promotion here and running.

LENKY DUAL: Has not been on target for many moons.

OUR CLOUD: Outlook overcast.

IMMIGRATE: Could settle in nicely. Stays and jumps well. Prefers ground.

GREENHILL HALL: Not one of my National Trustees.

NORTHERN BAY: May be all at sea over these gruesome fences.

Experts' choice

RICHARD BAERLEIN

1. West Tip
2. Lucky Vane
3. Corbiere

RACING EDITOR

1. Corbiere
2. Halo Dandy
3. Glenfox

CHRIS HAWKINS

1. West Tip
2. Corbiere
3. Greasepaint

TOP FORM TIPS

1. Greasepaint
2. Drumaligan
3. West Tip

More racing, page 18

Seagram Grand National

3.20 £54,314; 4½m; 40 runners.

BBC-1

301	40241	CORBIERE (G/D) (B. Burroughs) Mrs. J. Pitman 10-11-10 ... P. Scudamore
302	71413	DRUMALIGAN (W/D) (B. Webb) (Bromley) E. Gurney (1st) ... J. Francome
303	4-0532	GREASEPAINT (W. Smith) D. W. 10-10-13 ... T. Cassidy
304	4-10213	LUCKY VANE (W/D) (B. Webb) 10-10-13 ... J. Burke
305	21-2410	HALLO DANDY (W/D) (B. Webb) 11-10-12 G. Bradley
306	10-4430	BROOKY BANK (C. J. Lumsden) J. A. Edwards 10-10-7 Mr A. J. Wilson
307	430-001	FETHARD FRIEND (K. Al-Saleh) J. Edwards 10-10-7 ... P. Barlow
308	12213	CLASSIFIED (B. J. B. 10-10-7 ... J. White
309	01-1240	TACROY (A. Duffield) M. Mason 11-10-3 ... A. Slinger
310	120-120	LAST SUSPECT (W/D) (B. Webb) 11-10-3 ... H. Davies
311	04340	SCOT LANE (T. Ingham) B. J. 12-10-3 ... C. Smith
312	03111	WEST TIP (P. Luff) M. Oliver 8-1-0 ... R. Dunwoody
313	120100	KUMBI (D. Lee) D. McLean 10-10-0 ... K. Davies
314	23100	MUSSO (R.E.A. Bell Ltd) F. Winter 9-10-0 ... Mr S. Sherrard
315	71030	DUDIE (W. Smith) P. 10-10-0 ... A. Molins
316	321-405	RUPERTINO (L. Kemmer) E. Owen 10-10-0 ... N. Strauss
317	03300	IMPERIAL BLACK (T. Webster) N. Crump 9-10-0 ... C. Hawkins
318	F-PP57	SHADY DEAL (S. Hinchey) R. 9-10-0 ... R. Pave
319	431-143	TALON (B. Hume-Wilson) E. Amthor 10-10-0 ... A. Webb
320	00004	ONAPROMISE (L. Kemmer) E. Owen 10-10-0 ... A. Brown
321	013240	KNOCKAWAD (W. Williams) M. Hastings (1st) 9-10-0 ... K. P. White
322	03230	BLACKRATH PRINCE (R. Burroughs) G. 9-10-0 ... R. Pave
323	09-0005	HILL OF SLANE (Mrs M. J. 9-10-0 ... S. Smith-Kings
324	03400	ROYAL APPOINTMENT (Mrs J. White) J. 10-10-0 P. GH
325	017-000	SOLIHULL SPORT (Spillman Sports Services) J. 11-10-0 ... S. Mordhead
326	430014	CLONTWORTH (Mrs F. Rowley) A. L. Moore (1st) 11-10-0 ... Mr T. Thomson Jones
327	0042-00	PAULON (C. R. K. 11-10-0 ... J. Mearns
328	010220	FAULON (Mrs F. 11-10-0 ... J. Mearns
329	3-23200	CROSA (S. C. Jones) J. Fox 10-10-0 ... S. Mearns
330	114111	MR. SNUGG (S. C. Jones) J. Fox 10-10-0 ... P. Tait
331	11224	LENKY DUAL (P. 10-10-0 ... Mr D. Gray
332	0340-00	NEVER TAMPER (J. J. Saunders Ltd) J. 10-10-0 ... C. Brown
333	P4P04	ROMAN BISTRO (D. 10-10-0 ... P. Mordhead
334	21322	CAPTAIN PARKHILL (S. 10-10-0 ... C. Grant
335	40-0380	LENKY DUAL (D. 10-10-0 ... Mr D. Pither
336	040470	OUR CLOUD (T. 10-10-0 ... Mr J. Cassidy
337	4010P	IMMIGRATE (B. 10-10-0 ... J. Mearns
338	22212	GREENHILL HALL (Mrs 10-10-0 ... D. Mordhead
339	142721	NORTHERN BAY (Mrs 10-10-0 ... P. Mordhead

Big race facts

- The National dates from 1837, but in the early days took place over fields and farmland at nearby Maghull. The first winner, The Duke, jumped 40 fences and two flights of hurdles and took about 15 minutes to get round.
- Last favourite to win was Gritter at 7-1 in 1982. Favourites however, have a poor record — only five outright and five joint favourites have won this century.
- There have been four 100-1 winners. The most recent was Foinavon (1967) who was the sole survivor of the havoc caused by a loose horse at the 3rd fence.
- Only 80 have completed the course out of 382 starters in the last eight years. Last year's figure of 23 finishers out of 40 starters was a record.
- Only two finished the course in 1928. Billy Barton fell at the last when in the lead and was remounted to finish second to Tipperary Tim.
- Amateur riders have done well. Altogether gentlemen riders have triumphed in 38 Nationals.
- Nine-year-olds have the best record since the war with 16 wins out of 39. Eight-year-olds have won nine, ten-year-olds six, 12-year-olds six and 11-year-olds two.
- John Burke, who won on Rag Trade in 1976, is the only jockey in this year's line-up to have a previous victory.
- George Stevens is the most successful National jockey, riding 8 winners between 1856 and 1870.
- Nine of this year's trainers have saddled a previous winner — Jenny Pitman, Fuke Walwyn, Toby Balding, Gordon Richards, Tim Forster, Ginger McCain, Fred Winter, John Gifford, and Neville Crump.
- The first four home last year all line up again. Altogether 15 horses in this year's field have previously contested the race.

Ireland's buoyant captain courageous

SHORTLY BEFORE the kick off against Wales at the Arms Park a fortnight ago, the Ireland team were requested to stand in line, facing the south stand crowd for the playing of Land of My Fathers.

It was a departure from normal practice, a little piece of regimentation; and as the voices swelled in impassioned unison, Claran Fitzgerald feared that he and his men were in danger of being intimidated before the game had even begun.

Instantly, he told the players to link arms and, thus bound and rigid, they stood in a spontaneous gesture of defiance together. The move reflected the self-belief of the young side, and it reflected to the leadership of the captain whose military career as a commandant in the Irish Army, after all, prepares him for challenges.

That day, Fitzgerald became the first successful Ireland captain at Cardiff since Noel Murphy led his team to a narrow victory in 1967. Murrayfield, over Scotland and a draw with France, the and a draw with Triple Crown, with England providing a bitter end to a year which had begun in hope and finished in despair.

Lansdowne Road this

That little pre-kick off came as much about Fitzgerald's spirit, his courage, his sense of duty and his sense of responsibility as it did about his playing career. For, as he departed the field, blood spouting from a head wound, in the equivalent match against Wales in Dublin last season, Victorian romantics in the crowd may well have recalled Sir Henry Newbolt's "The Call of the Wild": "The colonel's dead, and the regiment's blinded by dust and smoke".

The regiment — built around the battle weary and ageing veterans of Dad's Army — was blinded, right enough: had the troops been able to look ahead, they would have found that the game, the battle and the leader were lost. They were on their way to a whitewash — a depressing and muted last hurrah for a team which had won the Triple Crown two years previously and had shared the championship with France the season before.

For Fitzgerald, it was a bitter end to a year which had begun in hope and finished in despair. In the view of Fitzgerald, a professional soldier, greater evidence of Fitzgerald's leadership qualities might reasonably have been expected on tour. But the captain often seemed dominated, mentally as well as physically, by the substantial figures of the manager, Willie John McBride, and coach Jim Telfer.

Charles Edwards applauds Ciaran Fitzgerald's spirit in rising above his detractors to lead Ireland against England today

ished in acrimony and controversy. In the two preceding seasons, he had become Ireland's most successful captain since Earl Mullen in the late forties and his record made him the outstanding skipper in the home countries — achievements which in 1983 had led to his appointment as captain of the Lions in New Zealand. We were then led to believe, were as nothing compared to the stresses of captaining Connacht in the Irish inter-provincial championship; but worse was to come, as Ireland suffered heavy defeat in Paris and were then trounced by the Welsh in Dublin.

Fitzgerald was left out of the team to meet England at Twickenham because of the cut he had received in the Welsh match, said the selectors — a lame excuse which nobody believed. The captain had been dropped, of course, and his dismissal was made official when he was omitted from the side to meet Scotland; a game marked by one of Ireland's most inept performances ever as the Scots galloped to an embarrassingly easy, Triple Crown victory.

The new season brought a new coach and a new and far from traditional approach for Ireland. Fitzgerald was in the international panel, but nobody would have put money on his chances of getting back into the team. Old soldiers, however, never die — they just rise again and smite their enemies; an inspirational display in Connacht's opening game in the inter-provincial series showed that Fitzgerald was up again and running.

Running so hard and convincingly, in fact, that when he was reinstated against Australia last November, there was not even a whisper of surprise. His return was taken for granted, even if now he was leading a team which bore little resemblance to the side upon whom the Scots the previous season had visited a rugby version of the Glencoe massacre.

Like the other home countries Ireland succumbed to Australian flair and panache, but succumbed in style, with some heartening running which restored the belief of their Lansdowne Road supporters. The Irish were Alive, Alive O, again, and Fitzgerald was leading on the vanguard more gritty, and determined than ever.

As a captain, he had led seven losing sides in succession — four Test defeats in New Zealand and Irish losses against France, Wales and Australia. But that last match showed that Ireland had grounds for hope, and at Murrayfield in February the sequence was broken by Fitzgerald's young and exuberant side which joyously scored two tries to none.

A month later, in spite of the decimation of the speedy back row, the team absorbed French fire, fury and setbacks to hold out for a draw. And then it was on to Wales where that symbolic linking of arms turned out to be the death salute to the Dragon as he was slain in his own lair.

This young team's style and approach has won the hearts of the Irish sporting public. Morale, after last season's shambles, has been restored and Fitzgerald, born leader and born again international rugby player, has made the most remarkable of comebacks.



ON PARADE Fitzgerald dressed in his Irish army uniform

THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: David Irvine on Ireland v. England

Crown to fit Doyle's men

RUGBY UNION

THOUGH Triple Crowns had been won by the Irish at Belfast, Swansea and Cardiff, it took them more than 100 years to seal their first at Lansdowne Road in 1982. This afternoon, three years on, still under Claran Fitzgerald's captaincy, and against an English side who have conceded 100 points in their last three away games, Ireland have a chance to repeat that feat—and, by so doing, take the International Championship.

So much, then, for those predictions that, with the passing of the old guard—Statter, Keane, Duggan, Campbell and all—the Irish would take years to rebuild. Inspired by Fitzgerald's leadership, guided by Mick Doyle's planning and aggression by bold selection, their young side have not only expunged memory of last year's whitewash but emerged as one of the best-balanced for many years.

There are grounds for Irish caution, however. Luck has influenced all their matches so far. Both Scotland's Peter Dods and Mark Wyatt of Wales kicked badly against them while England's discipline cost the French victory in Dublin after they scored the game's only tries.

The poor set-piece performance of the Irish pack in Cardiff, however, has caused the greatest concern. So it is not surprising that against what they see as an equally efficient England pack, most of Ireland's work has been directed towards improving their scrumage and line-out.

Despite heavy hints that with Melville back England are likely to spin the ball more readily, a logical approach would be to play it tight. Use Rob Andrew to kick for position and put Hugo MacNeill under pressure from Rory Underwood and Simon Smith.

Though England are also untested in the Championship, their back play has yet to convince and, should they open up and make mistakes, Carr, Matthews and Spillane have the pace to suggest they will invariably be first to the breakdown. And vulnerable as the Irish forwards may be in the tight, their rucking is first-class.

It is unlikely to be as fast and furious as at Cardiff for the looser the game, the greater the chance of Irish victory. Breakneck speed may well suit their tearaways but cannot hold much appeal for Hesford, Doyle and Blackway.

But England cannot underestimate the threat the Irish pack pose when they have clean ball—and Lenihan can certainly be counted to win some—for Lean, Mullin and Kiernan are all penetrative runners capable of making space for their wings and openings for MacNeill from the back.

Self-discipline is another vital England requirement. Kiernan's goal-kicking, which has given him 47 points in four matches this season, is as lethal as Campbell's or Ward's.

Should England succeed, although his feeling is that the Irish will shade it, they will set up their own Triple Crown chance at Cardiff on April 20.

Imagine the current feelings of this loyal and spirited No. 8. His club have begun their centenary year by reaching the final of the John Player Cup for the first time and here today he captains Crawshaw's Welsh in their assault on the Cathay Pacific-Hong Kong Bank Sevens.

The equivalent of a rugby Oscar would be in order should the 30-year-old Bowring see London Welsh and Crawshaw's through to a clean sweep such major titles.

Crawshaw's first set foot in this competition last year, winning their group matches and then going out to Public School Wanderers in the quarter-finals. This time, should things go according to plan, they are due for quarter-final confrontation with New Zealand.

The Wanderers come armed with the Scotsmen, John Jeffrey and Roger Baird, who will be paying his fifth visit to the event. They will be keen to salvage something from a disastrous Scottish international campaign in a group completed by Bahrain and Thailand.

Epsom won the festival tournament at the Roslyn Park national schoolboys sevens for the first time with a comprehensive 22-0 victory over Bryanston at Roehampton yesterday.

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SUPPLYING HOPE: ... Nigel Melville's return may see England spinning the ball more readily this afternoon

Barrie Fairall in Hong Kong

Bowring's fling

When Kevin Bowring brought the curtain down on last season by leading London Welsh to victory in the Mid-December Sevens at Twickenham, he may not have anticipated the accolades stretching into 1985. Now the starring roles are coming thick and fast in the twilight of a distinguished career.

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GOLF Marathon man Torrance

SAM TORRANCE and John O'Leary crowned a remarkable recovery with a seventh "madman-death" hole victory in the final of the Sunningdale Fouromes yesterday. They beat Bernard Gallacher and Pat Garner, forcing the match into extra time after being three down with five to play. It was the longest final in the event's 51-year history.

"That was one hell of a match," said Torrance afterwards. He had produced the winning shot with a superb bunker recovery to 18 inches at the 25th hole. Torrance and O'Leary were two under par for the marathon which looked to be decided when Gallacher and Garner swept three ahead at the 12th. But the seasoned European tour campaigners called on all their experience, and a birdie at the long 14th, followed by wins at the next two holes, levelled the encounter.

Garner, who putted magnificently throughout, kept his side in the match with a teasing seven-footer to save the 17th, and followed with four more single putts before his luck deserted him at the 25th.

SUNNINGDALE OPEN FOUROMES: Sam Torrance (left), John O'Leary (right), Bernard Gallacher (left), Pat Garner (right). Torrance and O'Leary won 2-1. Gallacher and Garner 2-1. Final: O'Leary and Torrance beat Gallacher and Garner 2-1.

On another day it might have been possible to describe Brown's round of 70 as sensational. He hit the ball extremely well through the green and his short game was adequate. But his putting was appalling. Using the battered old hickory-shafted putter that has been his for many years, he missed seven putts of inside eight feet, five of them for birdies, and the mathematics are obvious.

All the more credit to him, therefore, when, after playing his only really poor shot of the round, at the 18th, he successfully negotiated a four-footer for the par, which took him safely into the last two rounds.

Brown's two-under par round gave him a total of 145, one over for the tournament, and although he was well behind the overnight leader, Hale Irwin, who was at five-under, he now has a chance to play for a large percentage of the \$800,000 prize fund.

He opened with a birdie that was all but an eagle. His seven-iron second shot to the first ran over the rim of the hole, stopping only 12 inches away. But he then missed a second birdie when his five-footer for the long second hole rolled up short, and he later conceded that at the moment he has little feel in his hands for the putter.



SOCCER DIARY

Patrick Barclay

Unfair, this bar on bars

FOR A FEW glorious, naive moments after the Luton riot, I thought our Prime Minister was going to do something about punishing hooligans. Now it appears that she is to punish football instead. She has the wrong end of a big stick.

The idea of a blanket ban on drink at football is particularly insensitive and objectionable. Drunken fans can be a problem but, as everyone except the Government knows, those young troublemakers who need alcohol to turn nasty can get it more cheaply and conveniently outside grounds.

There is a myth, on which the Government may be basing its strategy, that the banning of drink from grounds curbed hooliganism in Scotland. In fact Scottish grounds seldom had bars: a contributory reason, perhaps, why such a stringent campaign was needed to limit pre-match and in-play indulgence.

Drinking in bars at English grounds is overwhelmingly a harmless, pleasurable activity which brings clubs much-needed revenue. Stopping it would constitute, in effect, an outrageously unjust fine on football. But I suppose it is easier for the Government to get the blame for the trouble of a public-order disease.

SIR STANLEY ROUS was grumbling, at a meeting of the London Society of Referees, about the direct free-kick: he saw no need for this "halfway house" and blamed Scotland for having foisted it on the International Board. A Scot nearby picked up the programme and read the referee's free-kick: "he said, 'shortly after the English had invented ungentlemanly conduct.' He didn't catch Sir Stanley's."

FULL MARKS for opportunism to M. Clarke, of Liverpool, whose contribution to a lively correspondence in the Sports Echo ran thus: "Regarding a memorial in honour of the late Harry Catterick, my idea, in view of the Gwylady's story, being open to the view, would be to extend the roofing and call it the Harry Catterick Canopy."

NATURE NOTES: The Manchester United programme describes Bruce Forsyth's story, told on television, about Gary Bailey throwing a big party in honour of his new duckpond... only for guests to find that the birds had flown, their wings unclipped.

The truth is acknowledged to be just as embarrassing: Bailey left a gate open, while he took his dog for a walk, enabling the wingless waddlers to waddle to a river and freedom. Away trips have become misery for the United goalkeeper, whose team-mates delight in yelling "There they are, Gary!" every time the bus passes a farm.

HOCKEY Pat Rowley Tournament mockery

Ian Taylor and six other English Olympic players have cried off this weekend's divisional tournament at Gateshead International Stadium for one reason or another. It has made a mockery of what is virtually the trial for the year's international fixtures.

The players' absence is all the more regrettable with the World Cup in England just 19 months away and especially as the event is to be held on artificial turf for the first time at the request of the players and officials.

Colin Whalley, the England manager said yesterday that he was bitterly disappointed. He had expressly asked his England squad members to make themselves available after his request for the England team to be allowed to take part in the event had been turned down. He said: "Some players have undoubtedly not helped their prospects of being selected for our teams this summer." There are some extremely attractive England fixtures ahead, including a tour of Australia.

The absence of so many top players—several non-Olympic internationals are also missing, is extremely discourteous to the North East officials who are staging the event for the first time in 40 years. South the title holders are forced to field a very sub-standard side because of absences.

The England selectors should be out in force and be looking very hard at the left halves on view

Christopher Dodd Beefy Dark Blues

ROWING

Oxford yesterday weighed in at an average 13 stone 13lb per oarsman, four pounds per man heavier than Cambridge, for next Saturday's Boat Race, sponsored by Ladbrokes. Cambridge's first woman, Henrietta Shaw, clocked 2b 2b—2st 2lb lighter than Oxford's Seth Lesser, lighter than Sue Brown, the first woman to steer in the event, and the lightest cox since Oxford's Sat 2b Massey in 1939.

The Dark Blues' slight advantage of beef is more than cancelled by Lesser's extra two stone, though president Lynton Richmond said this week that his man was chosen on the grounds that it is worth securing an ounce more brains at a cost of a stone more flesh. Bruce Philp, Oxford's Cambridge Blue, has slimmed to 11st, more than a stone lighter than when he last won Light Blue.

Ladbrokes took the opportunity of the weigh-in to announce that their sponsorship now for the ninth year and worth £50,000 per annum, may end after the 1986 race. They are miffed that their name, which they attached to the University Boat Race three years ago in return for increased contributions, was not sticking with press or public.

A company spokesman John Harounoff said yesterday: "We have to consider whether there is enough marketing return for us on our investment."

SPORT IN BRIEF TENNIS: Three Americans—fourth seeded Vitas Gerulaitis, No. 7 John Wilkison—were eliminated in the quarter-finals of the Milan Grand Prix yesterday.

TABLE TENNIS Richard Eaton in Gothenberg

Serving up a dispute

Alison Gordon, the England No. 1 omitted for the World Championships curtain-raiser that almost brought victory over European champions the Soviet Union, returned to argue and struggle her way through the deciding singles that brought England 2-2 victory against Belgium in Gothenberg yesterday.

Gordon, replacing Commonwealth champion Karen Witt, promptly found herself in the unenviable position of needing to win the match to level the year-old with a pony throw-up on service. If England were not to lose 3-2 for the second successive day.

"She was foul-serving and they did nothing about it," Gordon complained, which was what both sides and England captain Nicky Jarvis vehemently did to both opponent and officials near the finish of the first game and midway through the second of a tense 21-17, 21-13 win.

Earlier Gordon, with a hit-or-miss forehand, had also bravely saved a match point in a 19-21, 22-20, 21-18 win over Karline Bogaerts, whose abbreviated love, performed as though she were playing in a phone box, was just good enough to overcome England's national champion Lisa Bellingier. That point was also the only difference between English victory and defeat.

England's men also won, 5-2 against India, with Desmond Douglas winning three and making up for his first-ever loss to French No. 3 Patrick Remy in the 4-5 defeat to European champions France.

Paul Fitzpatrick Win-or-bust Leeds

RUGBY LEAGUE

Life is not without its contrasts in Rugby League. Last week, Leeds played before a crowd of 938 at Workington—believed to be the first time they have ever been watched by fewer than 1,000 spectators—but tomorrow at Headingley they are optimistic that they will attract their highest League gate of the season for the visit of Wigan.

It is a match that Leeds cannot afford to lose if they are to retain any ambitions of winning the Slalom Lager Championship. They have only five matches left, but it is still possible that the main contenders, Wigan and Hull KR, and to a lesser extent, St. Helens, will find the works being fouled up by having to play too many games in too short a time.

My feeling, now that they have nothing but the championship on their minds, is that Hull KR will rise from fifth to retain the title. They face a crowded run-in but have a number of relatively simple games, and are due to win two points for the taking at home to Barrow tomorrow.

Leeds beat Wigan in a John Player match in December but that heralded a long unbeaten run for Wigan. Leeds' chances of repeating that victory are improved by the return of Trevor Paterson, their best forward of late, and Eric Grothe on the right wing. His duel with Henderson Gill, Wigan's leading try-scorer, should be one of many fascinating individual conflicts.

St. Helens, unchanged from the side who overwhelmed Hull last Friday, should maintain their momentum against Warrington, although Reg Bowden's side have been encouraged by wins recently over Featherstone and Castleford and should play with more freedom now that relegation fears have disappeared.

RESULTS

Soccer CAMP LEAGUE—Sunderland 1, Bolton 0. NATIONAL LEAGUE—Sheff Wed 1, Sheff Utd 0. NATIONAL LEAGUE—Sheff Wed 1, Sheff Utd 0. NATIONAL LEAGUE—Sheff Wed 1, Sheff Utd 0. NATIONAL LEAGUE—Sheff Wed 1, Sheff Utd 0.	Baseball NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1.	Ice Hockey NATIONAL LEAGUE—Boston 5, Edmonton 2. NATIONAL LEAGUE—Boston 5, Edmonton 2. NATIONAL LEAGUE—Boston 5, Edmonton 2. NATIONAL LEAGUE—Boston 5, Edmonton 2.	Baseball NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1.	Baseball NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1.	Baseball NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—Cleveland 12, Washington 1.
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18 WEEKEND RACING

Out Of The Gloom can bring cheer

Richard Baerlein

In 1983 the champion hurdler, Gaye Brief, went on to win the valuable Templegate Hurdle at Liverpool. Now renamed the Sandeman Aintree Hurdle, Gaye Brief is out to win it again.

After finishing fourth to See You Then in the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle on March 15, trainer Mercy Rinehart criticised Gaye Brief's rider, Richard Linley, for a bad race in that he made his effort too soon.

As the horse had not run since early December, an absence of over three months, I believe the horse blew up after taking the lead before the start.

We know Rose Bayne gets the distance well but she and Bajan Sunshine only get 3lb from Gaye Brief, whose Cheltenham run should have tuned him up sufficiently to be a better proposition and win this race for a second time.

Out Of The Gloom and The Breeners have little to fear from their rivals in the Glenlivet Novices Hurdle. Following three consecutive victories, Out Of The Gloom had been well backed from 25-1 to 8-1 before Reg Hollingshead, to the intense annoyance of many punters, decided it would be better to hold him over for the extended distance of today's race.

The Breeners won three races in succession in the Newbury mud before finishing third to Harry Hastings

and Kesslin over three miles at Cheltenham. From the final flight the Breeners ran through six rivals with an amazing burst.

It may be close between them but as Out Of The Gloom missed Cheltenham to be trained especially for today's event he will be the fresher horse and is the selection.

At Lingfield Flyhome, who would have been my William Hill Lincoln Handicap selection but for a bad draw, tries for compensation in the Graisons Handicap with Carson again in the saddle.

The Foxhunters' Chase known as the amateurs' Grand National and sponsored by B. St. A. Bote of Wigmore Street, run yesterday over 2 miles 6 furlongs of the Grand National course, confirmed that the continuous rain was beginning to have an effect on the runners who were finishing very tired.

A wet morning will produce a really heavy going which will suit the 1983 winner Corbiere, but will be against last year's winner Halo Dandy as they strive to join the select group of those who have won the race twice. Had the ground been better yesterday I believe the strong pace-setter, Freddie Bee, once nearly 60 lengths clear of his nearest rival, would have held on.

He was still 30 lengths clear but was beginning to tire as he approached the second last and had been joined at the last by City Boy and Peace Clash. Tim



Bajan Sunshine, Peter Scummore's ride in the Sandeman Aintree Hurdle

Thomson Jones, the most able amateur of them all, had ridden a confident race on the 12-year-old City Boy who had spent the last five years evening and he went ahead for an easy victory over Peace Clash and the favourite, Golden Fly.

After a stewards' inquiry, Peace Clash was disqualified from the race with the result that the race was a two-horse contest between Golden Fly and second, Alan Orkney, rider of Golden Fly, had broken his irons approaching Bechers and rode the rest of the race with a half a length, with Against the Grain, second in the Triumph, four lengths back.

The day began with a 100-1 winner Pan Arcite over the favourite, Isopotabright, in a field of 10 and visions of a disastrous National sprang to mind.

Martin Pipe enjoying by far his best season, scored for the fifth time in six outings with Cats Eyes, who made practically all the running in the Maiden Timber Novices Hurdle, starting at 10-1.

RICHARD BAERLEIN'S SELECTIONS: MAP: OUT OF THE GLOOM (5-1 Liverpool). Next best: WEST TIP (3-2 Liverpool).

LINGFIELD

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Up to 1m 210m, but may be LOW

* DENOTES BLINDERS GOING: Heavy

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LIVERPOOL

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Up to 1m 210m, but may be LOW

* DENOTES BLINDERS GOING: Heavy

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THIRD COLUMN

"NO-ONE HERE really expects Nicaragua to invade us," Costa Rica's Minister of Information, Armando Vargas, said cheerfully the other day. And indeed in Honduras does either," said Manuel Gamero, the editor-in-chief of *Tempo*, one of that country's main newspapers.

The two men's comments, made at a conference for European and Central American journalists in San Jose, went directly against the United States government line. Repeated in numerous statements in the hope that people will eventually come to believe it, the line is that in putting pressure on the Sandinistas, Washington is kindly helping to defend their anxious neighbours.

So was the Costa Rican Information Minister informed? Has the Honduran newspaper editor missed the news? Or were both men more closely in touch with reality than the United States government would have us think?

If a free press is one which is not subject to government influence, then Nicaragua indeed has the least free press in the isthmus. But if a free press is one in which readers can find a variety of opinions, then Nicaragua is alone with Honduras in providing some sort of range of differing views. El Salvador has three daily newspapers, only one of which, *El Mundo*, ever reports the statements of human rights organisations, and none covers the guerrillas' point of view.

On radio there is the same pervasive bias. El Salvador's only independent radio station, owned by the church, Radio YSA, was closed for several months after a bomb attack. In Guatemala the media are equally monolithic while in Honduras a single television channel and the largest national radio network, Mr Gamero's *Tempo* is the only one of the four national newspapers which attempts to report the Nicaraguan case from time to time by, for example, printing interviews with President Daniel Ortega.

In Costa Rica, which prides itself on being a liberal democracy, all the daily newspapers are owned by companies whose major interests are in cultivating and exporting the country's major cash crops. Their views are hard-line anti-Left, and they do not even report fairly on the leftist policies of the present government. A fourth daily, *El Debate*, which started in 1983 was squeezed out deliberately by advertisers and soon folded. Three of the main radio stations are the US government's Voice of America daily "news bulletin."

Nicaragua is unique in Central America in having in *La Prensa* a major daily newspaper which gives a radically different point of view from that of the other two papers on offer, which both support the Sandinistas. The Nicaraguan press spectrum thus covers a wide swathe whereas elsewhere in the isthmus there is no major paper which could even be described as a supporter of non-alignment, let alone of Socialist views.

The constant drip-drip of one-sided information from this right-wing domination of Central America's mass media provides is a major asset for the United States. Inevitably it affects people's thinking in order to achieve the result, the United States Information Agency conducts regular public opinion polls among what it calls the "more educated urban populations" of Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras. The results are then sent to US embassies throughout Latin America and Western Europe.

The sample is taken from a minority which is already predisposed to the US point of view and most subject to US influence. But the findings are projected as though they are widely representative. From the way the region's mass media and the Reagan Administration talk you would not know that anyone dissents.

Jonathan Steele



Former president Alhaji Shehu Shagari: "foiled the West" (above); Wole Soyinka (right); Nelson Mandela: "a resounding No in the teeth of apartheid"

Wole Soyinka berates the African leaders who have cast the shadow of Nkomati over the continent

The traitors' plea to be recolonised

I AM two years late for this engagement, but it hardly matters: the news is still the same — fought for our comfort. We live in the era of Nkomati, and no matter what minor variations we receive from time to time in the medical bulletin, Nkomati remains alive and well.

Perhaps in future years the black children of Southern Africa will justify any psycho-social disorders by claiming that they were born under the Nkomati star.

The Nkomati syndrome will take its place in the medical dictionary to explain certain forms of aberrant conduct in African leadership. After all, a veteran member of the medical profession, Professor Lambo, who is also the deputy director of the World Health Organisation, did propose, a

year or two ago, that African leaders should be subjected to psychiatric examination at least once every five years — something like that anyway. An experienced doctor in such a position, who interacts regularly with the power-wielders of the world, must have observed something, something we, as laymen, do not know.

What we do know however, and experience in our socio-political milieu, is the failure of political will throughout the continent. No one can disagree with President Nyerere's insistence that the failure which Nkomati represents is a failure, not of the signatory states but of the entire continent.

I go even further and insist that this failure will continue as long as African and black



leadership continues to exhaust its limited fund of political will on creating internal structures of oppression against their own people, thereby isolating them from that communal endeavour which should reinforce them, at moments of crisis, in their undertakings against our common external enemies. To remain blind to this basic fact is to reveal total alienation from the organic forces which give a coherent identity to a people as a people.

Such leaders exist only as members of a select, secretive club, gathering from time to time to make deals above the heads of the people whom they claim to represent.

We know whose gun-ship helicopters, whose ubiquitous

marines snuffed out the lamp of self-determination in Grenada, but what do we say of the consortium of black leaders who spread out the mat of invitation to Ronald Reagan? Who were these shameless so-called leaders who sent out the SOS which read: "Recolonise us, please!" We know whose agency manufactured the dastardly instrument which terminated the career of Walter Rodney, but whose was the face beneath the reactionary mask which nodded in the Brigades signed Rodney's death warrant, and emasculated his workers' movement?

As for the mother continent, it is pockmarked with vicious replications of apartheid structures, with the full machinery of arbitrary arrests and imprisonments,

torture, "disappearances," displacement and dispossession, and ingenious forms of dehumanisation which appear at times to strive to outdo one another across national boundaries. Is it any wonder that, gleefully observing these anomalies of black existence, the Ronald Reagans of the Western world continue to tip the wink at Pik Botha, who thereupon is emboldened to carry on business as usual?

Our literature must not fail to reflect the treachery of such alienators even as our people struggle on the actual terrain to reject them, enduring hideous mutilations, dying heroic but unnecessary deaths, experiencing the despair of seeing their victory over one fascist imposition hijacked by yet another fas-



Salient events in Nigeria since 1975.

- July, 1975, Gen. Yakubu Gowon deposed in bloodless coup. Brig. Murtala Muhammed becomes head of state.
- February, 1976: Muhammed assassinated in attempted coup.
- February, 1976: Gen. Obasanjo becomes head of state.
- August, 1979: Alhaji Shehu Shagari declared winner in presidential elections and (October) Obasanjo hands over.
- August, 1983: Shagari declared re-elected president.
- December, 1983: Gen. Buhari takes power in military coup.

est opportunist, only ten times worse. The crumb of solace which comes our way need also be elevated to legendary status to counter these agents of our pessimism — thus even as we mourn Nkomati, we must celebrate Mandela. If we don't, the opportunist leeches, those discredited leaders, will claim him for their own. They will rhetorise with his name, they will mouth his courage, name the odd street or two after him, then promptly forget the meaning, the challenge of his superhuman gesture.

And it is a frightening... no, not gesture but act. It is a repulsive combat act on its own, the summation of that same revolutionary will that began over two decades ago

when a group of committed nationalists decided that the word no longer sufficed, and took to other weapons. In these dark days of Nkomati, let us at least be thankful and humbled by Nelson Mandela's giant fist thrust out, smash a loud resounding "NO" in the teeth of apartheid.

Together with other heroes like Steve Biko, Walter Rodney, Maurice Bishop and Malcolm X, around whom the festival has been organised, they remind us, confined or free, living or dead, that the imperatives of struggle reach out beyond prison fences and beyond the grave.

This is part of Wole Soyinka's speech when he opened the 4th International Black Book Fair.

The playwright turns film-maker

Michael Simmons meets a Nigerian with a message for his countrymen

WOLE SOYINKA'S acute concern for his country, Nigeria, and his flair for drama remain undiminished. Twenty years ago the trouble was that he had allegedly forced Radio Nigeria at gunpoint to broadcast an anti-government statement in place of one by an establishment chief. But it wasn't quite as the prosecution said, and he was acquitted on all counts.

Today, it is a film he has just made, severely critical of the Shagari years. As hundreds turned up at the National Theatre in Lagos for the premiere the other day, security officers stepped in and took the reel. *Blues For A Prodigal*, as it is called, depicts real events, and specifically the violent attempts to induct a naive young student. It amounts to an unambiguous indictment of what Soyinka now calls "the

crude hammer-blow fascists and the looters" who made up the Shagari administration. "Make no mistake," he says now, "under Shagari, it was civil war."

Clearly, he disapproves heartily, but of necessity guardedly, of the military regime of General Buhari which seized power in the coup of New Year's Eve, 1983. But he fails to understand the seizing of his film. "Taking it," he said in an interview in London this week, "is a kind of admission of culpability. It is a way of identifying with the Shagari regime. The government has condemned itself."

Still no reason is given, and officials remain silent. It is left to Lagos journalists already reading their own tiptrope under Buhari — to speculate. Soyinka has seen such things before, many times, and sighs heavily —

but he and his backers are nearly 200,000 out of pocket.

Soyinka, the writer and thinker and some-time filmmaker, is undoubtedly the political activist as well. There is a universality about his work — he has adapted his plays for the stage, but he is principally a chronicler of events he has lived through. His moods fluctuate between aggression and black despair, but are always permeated by the "life-affirmative" force that sustains him.

No one knows for sure, but probably 100 million people — one African in every four — live in Nigeria. The country has been billed, just occasionally, as the continent's flagship for democracy, but is seen more often as a battlefield for warring factions, tribes, federalists and secessionists always ready to tear at each other's throats. Soyinka talks, however, of the

possibility, one day, of political coherence of the truly sophisticated nature of the Nigerian electorate.

But he also talks of the dismal prospect presented by the 20 or so years since Independence. For every one step forward he says, Nigeria takes 12 steps backward. There has been no real "heyday" since Independence, he adds, though there were tolerably better times under Olusegun Obasanjo and Murtala Mohammed in the mid-1970s.

"We are guilty of our own crimes," Soyinka argues, speaking of Africa generally as well as Nigeria. "The first and the principal enemy is internal. The humiliation of Nkomati (the 1964 treaty between South Africa and Mozambique) was the price for failing to unite. We are fighting the reactionaries within..."

President Alhaji Shehu Shagari, he dismisses now as "a traitor," at least in the last stages of his rule. Did the last, seeing Shagari as a gentle moderate, let Nigeria down? Not exactly, Soyinka replies, but it was unpalatable that Western observers were so "foiled" by the man, and that they therefore complicated the country's problems by demoralising the opposition forces.

To what extent does Soyinka rate himself a patriot? He pauses. "There is no shortage," he says, "of anti-life rogues. But I love life, and the human community is mine. It is for the Government to prove, its patriotism, according to my definition."

Soyinka is now 60, and when not writing has spent his professional life either teaching or as visiting lecturer at half a dozen of the world's universities. Three

were in Nigeria (Ibadan and Ife twice over), out in Ghana, one in the U.S. (Yale) and another in Britain (Cambridge). Now he talks of retiring from this part of his life at the end of the current academic year.

What next? More autobiography? He stopped the instalment so far published, called simply *Ake: The Year of Childhood*, at the age of 12 quite deliberately. "Autobiography," he says, "is selective. You have to be selective... He said when Ake was published he wouldn't add to it. Now he says perhaps he'll have to do so."

His most famous work outside Nigeria and a classic of prison literature is *The Man Died*, and will be reissued by a London publisher soon as a paperback. He has written a new introduction. It remains to be seen whether this will

echo what he wrote ten years after the first edition — that, where a regime may be deemed culpable, each family should have a handy pin-up photograph of the nation's leader, so that every day as a reminder, they could hurt the family plops at it.

More seriously still, he sees himself primarily as a playwright, and would like to write — given the time — and direct more of his own work. However, he points out, there will be no complicity. "Acquiescence in political crime," Soyinka reflects, "is a hideous form of surrender, very tempting but very contemptible."

What he writes next will not be as stark as lines produced in a few years ago, saying "Sodom and Gomorrah / When this whorehouse comes to trial..." But it will almost certainly startle.

EAST TIMOR

Creeping conquest

Few outsiders are permitted to see the devastation caused by an Indonesian invasion nearly 10 years ago

WHILE the British Prime Minister prepares to visit Jakarta, military occupation and resistance continue in the territory of East Timor which the Indonesian armed forces invaded nearly ten years ago. More than 100,000 Timorese have died at the hands of the Indonesian military as a result of the destruction and disorder caused by the occupation. In the past two years more evidence has filtered through the Indonesian news blackout to document the scale of the repression and of East Timorese resistance.

Nevertheless, a few governments that ever are prepared to take up the issue — though the Catholic Church has shown increasing concern. The United Nations Secretary-General, instigated talks in 1984 between the governments of Indonesia and Portugal, the former colo-

nia power, which is considered by the United Nations to be the Administering Authority of the territory. But these have not included representatives of the East Timorese people.

The Indonesian invasion and occupation were a period of trial for the Church, from which it emerged strengthened. A group of priests wrote to the Pope in May 1983 to say that the people of the territory have suffered "moral and physical violence, arbitrary imprisonment, the resettlement of families and whole villages; the execution of those who surrender; executions without trial or summary judgment; disappearance of families; the destruction of villages; the concentration of whole groups of those captured; hunger and disease throughout all of East Timor." Detailed research on individual cases by Amnesty International has confirmed these general claims.

However, the roads are built to assist the army, the schools teach Indonesian (which was not spoken in East Timor) and the new agricultural projects are of advantage only to the Indonesian authorities who, since 1975, have appropriated most of the land previously under plantation crops.

The Indonesian government has also encouraged growing numbers of farmers

from other islands to settle in East Timor. Officially, this movement takes place under the government's "transmigration" policy, which is intended to spread the population and develop the territory. But it is also a way of spreading Indonesian influence and relieving pressure in the densely inhabited islands of Java and Bali.

The Indonesian government claims that since 1981 malnutrition has no longer been a serious problem. This is not the view of development agencies or Timorese refugees. The territory's traditional economy has been dangerously disrupted by the concentration of the rural population in hamlets.

Very few agencies are allowed to work in East Timor. The International Committee of the Red Cross was entirely excluded from the territory between 1975 and 1979.

In fact the Indonesians have permitted few people to visit the territory. Selected diplomats and journalists have been granted visas from time to time, but only for short periods of a few days, and none has been permitted to choose their itinerary.

Britain's position, reaffirmed by the Foreign Secretary in January 1985 is that "the people of East Timor deserve the opportunity to determine their own future in accordance with their own political aspirations, unaf-

fected by pressures of one kind or another" but that the issue can "only be resolved by direct contact between Portugal and Indonesia."

But Britain's simultaneous unwillingness to antagonise Indonesia has led the British Government to abstain every time the issue has come before the UN.

In 1978 Britain's Labour government sold eight Hawk fighters to Indonesia, knowing these could be used for counter-insurgency operations in East Timor. The present Conservative government has continued to promote weapons sales to Indonesia.

Edited excerpt from *East Timor Comment*, published by the Catholic Institute for International Relations, 22 Coleman Fields, London N 1.

CUBA

Medical miracle

Lionel Martin reports Cuba's giant strides in health care

ONE of Fidel Castro's great dreams is to turn Cuba into a public health showcase and world medical centre. Health officials from Western nations

and the UN who have visited this country recognise that Castro's dream could well come true. Experts such as Dr Halfdan Mahler, general director of the World Health Organisation, and the French Director of Health, Dr Jacques Roux have been the most recent in praising Cuba's seven-league strides. Dr Roux stated that Cuban public health is already on the level of many developed nations and has fulfilled the PanAmerican health organization's projected medical goals for the year 2000.

Cuban doctors recognise that there are still shortcomings: many doctors still lack experience, hospital waiting rooms are often overcrowded, nurses don't always display the quiet professionalism expected in their craft and medical facilities are not always as spick and span as they should be. A Cuban health official commented: "It took months to get the bugs out of the Queen Mary once she was launched and I suspect it will take us many years of decades to perfect our medical system."

Cuba's polyclinic, 396 in all, are found all over the island. Before the revolutionary victory in 1959 there were none. There are now 263 hospitals, compared with 97. Fifty-four of them are in mountainous rural areas where previously there was only one small rural hospital



Cuba's children: healthy future

with 23 beds. There were no dental clinics: today there are 143.

When Castro's rebel troops entered Havana there were 6,300 medical doctors, most of them with lucrative private practices in the large cities. More than half these doctors left for Miami and other parts following the revolution, but

among those who stayed were the physicians who laid the foundations of the present public health care.

The budget for public health has zoomed from \$1 million pesos in 1958 to 688 million pesos in 1984. Hospitals are equipped with sophisticated technology: intensive care units, scanning and ultrasound devices for dissolving kidney stones and for diagnosing diseases. The number of university medical faculties has grown from one single one at the university of Havana to 28 throughout the country with a similar proliferation of dental schools, nurses' training colleges and research centres. Today Cuba has 20,545 physicians compared with a low of 3,000 shortly after the revolution.

The private practitioner is now a dying species: there are only 53 of them left. Castro recently said: "Nobody bothers them: they work as they are respected. Medical and dental care is completely free of charge. This is possible partly because even the most skilled surgeons receive only slightly greater salary than a qualified teacher or worker."

The infant mortality rate has dropped from over 60 per thousand live births before the revolution to only 15 in 1984, only three points above the United States.

Kids' stuff

THE Oxford Development Education Centre has produced a catalogue of development educational material for school children. The boom in Third World studies and multi-cultural education projects has produced a vast amount of material of uneven quality. This catalogue is a good guide to the best of the books, wall-charts, cartoon and photo collections (£1.50 from the Centre, 72 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4). The centre can also provide speakers, slide shows and music from every continent.

Inside story

THE complacent clutch of well-established Asia magazines is being challenged by *Inside Asia*, a new arrival which aims professionally for the bits that the others don't reach. Regular sections include women in Asia, human rights and labour affairs. It sensibly also regards the Asian commu-

ties in Britain as part of its constituency. The second issue has Ben Kiernan and Noam Chomsky on a decade of genocide in Kampuchea. Bi-monthly from 242 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UP (subs £10 individuals, £18 institutions).

Victoria Brittain, Third World Review editor

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AN EXPLOSIVE FILM BY A THREATENED DISSIDENT Lino Brocka's **BAYAN KO** MY OWN COUNTRY ICA CINEMA THE MALL STATION ROAD

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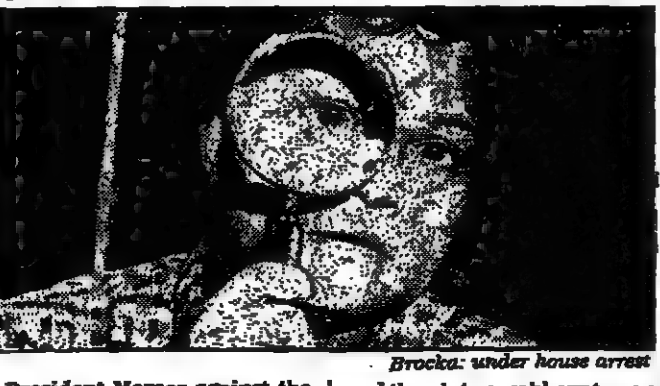
NORTH/SOUTH

Silenced screen

LINO BROCKA, the Filipino film director arrested for sedition in Manila last January, has now been released after considerable international pressure. He is now under house arrest, with charges pending and further pressure is crucial since he faces life imprisonment or the death penalty if found guilty.

Yesterday, My Own Country (Bayan Ko) opened at the ICA Cinema in London after a week at which well-known British film-makers, supported by Amnesty International, appealed for continued help for one of Asia's best-known and most courageous directors.

Among them were David Puttnam, John Boorman and David Hare. Previously Francis Ford Coppola, George Lucas, Julie Christie and Simone Signoret appealed to



President Marcos against the harassment of Brocka, who, though a well-known appointee of the regime, was arrested after watching a demonstration against increased petrol prices by Manila taxi-drivers.

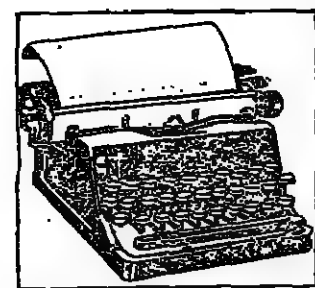
My Own Country, reviewed in yesterday's *Guardian*, directly confronts present day politics in the Philippines with a story about a printing worker forced through poverty into signing an anti-union declaration at his work

and then into a robbery to pay for his sick wife's medical bills.

Set against the background of the Aquino demonstrations and labour unrest, the film has a notable immediacy which has prevented it being shown in Manila in its entirety. The film was awarded the British Film Institute prize this year for its power and originality.

سكرا من الاصل

Do industrialists really want consensus or just a bigger slice of the cake?



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

BIG business is seeking a greater and broader say in how industry and commerce contributes to a wide spread of national political, economic and social issues.

In short, business people are trying to have a bigger say in how we run the country. The business lobby has been in the forefront of the national debate in the past. The years of consensus government under Wilson, Heath and Callaghan brought business close to the forefront in the decision making process.

Then, however, the debate was essentially an economic one, with the government, industry and the trade unions agreeing on broad fiscal guidelines like wages and dividends. Today, in contrast, business is being asked to extend the influence of industry and commerce into both the political and social arena.

The point was graphically illustrated only this week when the Confederation of British Industry, the most respected of the business lobby groups, produced a key document, entitled *Change to Succeed*. The 88-page document represents a landmark in the history of business lobbying.

In it the CBI sets out to promote a debate among industry and commerce which it hopes will lead to sweeping political and social reforms—and a better all-round climate for us all in which to live. Intriguingly, the CBI's sortie into political and social affairs emerges at the same time as the Institute of Directors is anxiously promoting itself as an independent think tank, capable of providing government and industry with a suitable forum to debate and consider wider long-term issues.

Appropriately enough, the IOD's new role has emerged under the guidance of its new director general, Sir John Hoskyns, one time head of the Whitehall think tank and former personal adviser to Mrs Thatcher. The CBI, for example, has plunged into hitherto uncharted waters by asking its members to consider pressing issues like proportional representation, increased powers for the House of Lords, and an extension of the five year Parliamentary term. Equally it has asked for members' views on whether Britain should have a Bill of Rights.

The IOD under Hoskyns is attempting to provide an opportunity for the nation to use the organisation as a think tank to promote and discuss ideas and concepts outside the traditional parameters set by politics, finance or union membership. The type of initiatives being undertaken by the CBI and IOD at present would have been difficult enough to achieve during the years of consensus government. Consensus is not a word in use any longer in the CBI and IOD would appear to be sowing their seeds on very stony ground.

However, the joint — and unrelated — moves by the CBI and IOD reflect an awareness by businessmen and women that the fundamentals have changed. The government leads and everyone else must be strong and fit enough to follow on behind. Both the business lobbies share the same view that a better industrial and commercial climate is needed to help achieve national goals and both would doubtless admit that Mrs Thatcher's government has created more change than any administration for many years.

But in pressing for a bigger say in how we run things, the CBI and IOD are also saying that now is a good time to reassess the change which has already taken place and to determine whether it has been worthwhile and what should follow. All of this is clearly fair enough and no one should object to constructive debate on how the country is best run. However, both the CBI and IOD suffer from the serious disability of being the CBI and IOD.

Deals to increase outside capital well advanced

Talks start on micro deal with China

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

Eight Chinese officials yesterday began a week of talks in Manchester on a £40 million deal to build a microchip plant, a personal computer factory, and a research centre on the campus of the main South China university in Guangzhou (Canton).

The basic 15-year agreement with a British-led consortium, to establish a joint venture company called China Micro, was signed in China four months ago.

The key members of the consortium are Ferranti, whose world lead in the technology of gate-array microchips is the major attraction to the Chinese, and the London-based microcomputer company Bair.

The Central London Polytechnic is also involved on the research and training side. Mr Mark Potts, managing director of Bair and head of the consortium, said yesterday that negotiations on raising between \$10 million and \$15 million of outside capital were well advanced.

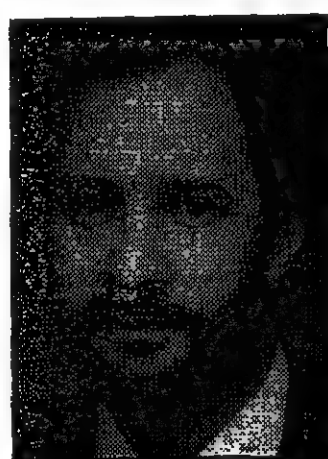
Some of this money is coming from Hong Kong investors. The deal is with the Government of Guangdong province, next door to Hong Kong. That province is the spearhead of China's modernisation drive.

There is American participation, particularly in microchip manufacturing equipment, but the consortium is predominantly British and the contract specifies the use of UK equipment, other things being equal. British architects are also involved.

Mr Potts said the Chinese were investing about £25 million initially, with a build-up thereafter. Preparatory work had already begun.

The chip plant will concentrate on the technology that Ferranti has developed in Manchester, and the computer factory will make a range of microcomputers based on Bair's products, but using a Chinese language capability developed locally.

Dr Alan Shepherd, head of Ferranti's microelectronics operations, said last night that the first day's talks had produced "great enthusiasm" on both sides.



Mark Potts

National Savings to take on the banks

By Margaret Dibben, Money Editor

National Savings is to pay 0.5 per cent more on its variable interest rate investment schemes. The department is just on the point of scrapping together the £3 billion target for this year and will start the new financial year by returning to competition with the banks and new building society rates.

With £280 million needed during March to reach the target, in the first three weeks of the month, National Savings attracted £200 million. Although the pressure is off during April, the Government will not want to fall too far behind at the start of the year with this important element of its funding requirement.

The banks' high interest accounts have been hugely popular, mainly at the expense of building societies. The societies will be hard pressed this month to raise even £200 million, which is only one quarter the amount needed to meet mortgage demand. In the last two weeks they saw a net outflow of around £76 million.

The General Extension Rate, paid on matured savings certificates, improves from 9 per cent last month, to 9.51 per cent starting on Monday.

There are no changes to the 30th issue National Saving certificate, granny bonds or the will be hard pressed this month to raise even £200 million, which is only one quarter the amount needed to meet mortgage demand. In the last two weeks they saw a net outflow of around £76 million.

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There are no changes to the 30th issue National Saving certificate, granny bonds or the will be hard pressed this month to raise even £200 million, which is only one quarter the amount needed to meet mortgage demand. In the last two weeks they saw a net outflow of around £76 million.

C&G in Waltham merger

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is merging with the far smaller Waltham Abbey Building Society in July. Geographically, Waltham Abbey will fill in gaps in Cheltenham & Gloucester's coverage.

The deal is subject to the approval of Waltham Abbey members who are being wooed with the offer of a 1 per cent bonus being added to ordinary share accounts if the merger goes through.

The Cheltenham, ranked 12th with 150 branches, will bring the Waltham's rates for both borrowers and savers into line with its own.

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First National Securities Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st April 1985 its base rate for lending will be reduced to 14%.

First National Securities Ltd, First National House, College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1FB. Telephone: 01-861 1313.

NEWS IN BRIEF

JARDINE Matheson, the leading "hong" trading house which last year switched its domicile to Bermuda ahead of the UK-Singapore agreement on Hong Kong, yesterday reported that it had slipped to a loss of nearly £100 million in 1984. The deficit was largely attributable to the group's shipping interests, and Jardine has now decided to withdraw entirely from ship-owning.

Over £80 million of the loss was accounted for by a provision against the value of its shipping fleet which has now been written off completely. Jardine will also pull out of offshore oil service business.

TWO of Britain's big four clearing banks were yesterday still considering whether to join their rivals in cutting interest rates. The Midland Bank and Barclays both said that they were studying the market "very closely" but had not decided whether to follow the National Westminster and Lloyd's in cutting rates from 13.5 per cent to 13 per cent.

However, the Bank of England continued to support the base rate cut in its money market dealings and money dealers expect the Midland and Barclays to fall in line next week.

A KEY index of US economic activity rose 0.7 per cent in February, a smaller rise than in January but a sign of continued economic growth in the months ahead, the government reported yesterday.

The rise in the Index of Leading Economic Indicators, considered a barometer of future economic direction, compared with an increase of 1.5 per cent in January, the Commerce Department said. — Reuters.

THE world economy would continue to grow this year and next but at a slower rate than in 1984-85, the respected Kiel Institute of World Economic Affairs said yesterday.

Indemnity for JMB

By Andrew Cornelius

The Bank of England has agreed the controversial £150 million indemnity package to cover future losses at John Matheson Bankers, with the group more than 20 banks and building societies who supported the rescue of the bank last year.

Under the terms of the package agreed yesterday, the Bank will provide half of the £150 million indemnity net being made available to cover JMB's bad debts once its capital reserves are exhausted, with the balance provided by the other rescuers.

The agreement concludes several months of negotiations between the Bank and the indemnity committee representing the other parties involved. The JMB rescue to define exactly which loans were covered by the indemnity deal.

JMB has estimated reserves of between £150 million and £170 million, and debts estimated at about £245 million. This would mean that the Bank and the other banks would have to pay out shares of losses in the region of £75 million to £95 million under the terms of the indemnity agreement.

His call for prompt action reflects increasing anxiety in government circles that Japan could feel itself ostracised if foreigners feel their products are not given a fair chance in the Japanese market.

Mr Nakasone is said to be confident that President Reagan will react to the pressure for drastic actions such as introducing a surcharge against

From Robert Whymant in Tokyo

Amid growing clamour in the US over its trade deficit with Japan, the prime minister, Mr Nakasone, has ordered his cabinet colleagues to assemble a "package" of trade concessions generous enough to forestall protectionist moves by Western countries.

Yesterday, Mr Nakasone instructed his economic planning agency chief, Mr Ippei Kaneko to come up with comprehensive market opening measures, primarily of benefit to the US, prior to the OECD ministerial meeting to be held in Paris on April 11 and 12. The government ministers concerned will hold an emergency meeting today to decide how far Japan can go in meeting foreign countries' demands.

This week, a US congressman declared that America was now engaged in a "trade war" with Japan.

As the US loses patience with Japan's slow progress in opening up the Japanese market to foreign goods, the high noon atmosphere grows more acute. On Thursday, the US Senate called on President Reagan to retaliate unless Japan opens its markets to American goods in 90 days.

The resolution was aimed at shocking Japan and the White House to speed up bilateral talks concerning imports of telecommunications equipment, forestry products, medical equipment and drugs.

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**Now IJ
realises
full
worth**

Pre-tax profit leaped to £12.4 million, from £6.3 million after higher interest charges of £3.5 million. The US brickmaking activities still made a small

A 15 per cent rise in profits from the bedding, furniture and foam businesses was largely offset by the accounting treatment of the new

Trust hits a peak

Listing sought

The dividend is cut to 1p, from the previous 2.65p total.

CRODA is selling the printing ink business that dipped into the red in the second half of last year, when the international group as a whole made a higher profit. The buyer is part of the Inmott group of the United States. The price being paid for the United Kingdom ink operations is not being disclosed.

THE MARKETS

shadowed by South American debt problems, showing losses to 12p. Life insurance retreated further after the sharp increases that followed the Prudential results earlier this week. Brokers tumbled in sympathy with their dollar earnings. The spate of company trading statements eased somewhat, but there were still plenty of special situations generate excitement.

The day's most active

than expected profits, finishing 13p lower at 271p. ICI dropped 13p to 76p. Hawkers retreated 8p at 409p, and Beechams gave up 8p at 365p.

Recovery hopes however were good for a 5p rise in Thorn-Emi at 404p. In the building sector Istock celebrated a free share hand-over and bumper profits with a 12p rise at 315p while Cooksons awaiting results next week improved 21p at 550p. The "nu-

was off 0.1 per cent at the end of business and declines outnumbered advances by 93 to 88.

● **Tokyo:** Jitters over trade friction between Japan and its trading partners encouraged stock prices into a decline. Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 12,580.76 (12,604.02).

● **Hong Kong:** Prices increased UK Provident stabilising. Hang Seng Index: 1,352.0 (1,352.76).

A 15 per cent rise in profits from the bedding, furniture and foam businesses was largely offset by the accounting treatment of the new

Scottish Heritable Trust,
which won the takeover con-

Scott Greenham Group, one of the leading specialist lifting contractors and crane hirers in the UK, is seeking a full listing for its shares next week with an £8.1 million share offer.

FT Ordinary Share Index
down 13.8 at 964.3. FT-SE 100
Index down 10.1 at 1,277.0.
Pound: \$1.2355; DM 3.80; Fr
11.62. Gold: \$330.00. Account:
March 25 to April 12. FT All
Share Index down 4.12 at
616.21. Sterling Index 77.2.
(1975=100). RPI 362.7 (Feb-
ruary) up 5.4 per cent on year.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]



TO BE SOLD: how much, and how long?

The answer to a difficult sum

Margaret Dibben
on how to work out
your new monthly
mortgage payments

THE building societies have now digested the word from their association that a 1 per cent rise in the mortgage rate would be appropriate, and accordingly, across the board, they have added 1 per cent to their basic and higher mortgage rates.

Banks cut their base rates by another 0.5 per cent this week but this is not nearly enough to trigger a fall in building society rates. Not until banks bring their rates down by a further full 1 per cent need you start looking at the societies for a reduction. They have lost so much money on the savings side this month that the rates must stay high to win it back.

The banks have yet to retaliate with changes to the mortgage rate — either up or down — and the only indication so far that their mortgage departments have noticed the rise in the building society rate changes is a special offer to borrowers from Lloyds Bank.

Anyone arranging a loan with the bank between now and June 28 will have 0.5 per cent knocked off the cost, whether it is a repayment or endowment mortgage, taking the rate down to 12.75 per cent for a repayment loan. The endowment rate will be 13.25 per cent.

The Woolwich and Nationwide have both maintained their policy of having one single rate regardless of the size of the mortgage and they now charge 13.5 per cent. The Bristol & West is one of only a few building societies to charge a lower rate than this, although their 13.75 per

cent is only applicable on loans up to £15,000. At the Bradford & Bingley, 13.75 per cent is available on first-time house buyers who have been saving in a special mortgage account or have deposited a large sum with the society for at least a year. The rate for anyone else starts at 14 per cent.

And 14 per cent is the rate that most home buyers will now be paying because inflation is relatively low at the moment, this is the highest ever cost of mortgages in real terms. Endowment mortgages in general cost 0.5 per cent more. People who have difficulty repaying the higher amount should contact their branch manager straight away perhaps to make arrangements to go on to an interest only basis for a time.

One of the advantages of a repayment mortgage over an endowment is that when interest rates go up, the same

monthly repayments can be made and the period of the loan extended. But most building societies will not allow this unless the borrower can show proof of financial problems. And then the longest period to which the loan can be extended is 30 or 35 years.

The Abbey National is happy for borrowers with repayment mortgages to extend the period of the loan up to the point of infinity — although at that stage, they would expect an increase in the amount of repayments, since to have a mortgage on infinity would be the equivalent of repaying only the interest and none of the capital of the loan.

The Leeds at one time used to allow borrowers automatically to extend the life of the mortgage. Now they will only do so if borrowers ask specifically, but they will accede to requests without the cus-

tomers having to provide documentation.

The other large societies will insist that monthly payments are increased to keep on course for the original time span of the mortgage.

The formula to check that the society is charging the correct amount each month is as follows. The basic idea is to find the value of one of a series of repayments made over (say) 25 years which will repay the capital and interest each year so that the debt is eliminated at the end of the period.

The sum looks like this:

$$L \times \left(\frac{1 - (1 + r)^n}{r} \right)$$

L = loan
r = interest rate
n = number of years

Assuming that the loan is £20,000 for 25 years at 14 per cent, start at the end of the formula and work backwards. So, 1 plus 1 to the power of n becomes

$$1 + 14 \times 25 = 35.461916$$

Divide that bottom line figure into 1 and the reciprocal figure is 0.02799.

Subtract that from 1 which gives 0.97201 and multiply by 12 which is 11.66412.

Now turn to the top line: Multiply 14 for the interest rate by 20,000 for the loan and the answer is 2,800. Divide that by the bottom line figure 11.66412 and the monthly repayment is £240.50 a month.

This is before tax relief and while it is not absolutely exact is a good approximation. For an endowment loan, simply multiply the size of the interest repayments (in this example £2,800) by the rate of interest and divide by 12.

To work out repayments after tax relief, use the net interest which, for a 14 per cent gross cost, is 9.8 per cent.

Miras

ONE change announced in the Budget will affect home owners with mortgages over £20,000 but not until 1987. Then they, like everyone else, will be swept into the Miras net.

At present it is only with loans below £20,000 that borrowers make their monthly repayments to the bank or

Savings

ON the savings side, the building societies have improved the rate by 0.75 per cent for a 12-month fixed rate mortgage. The rate is now 8.25 per cent.

Some societies have taken the opportunity to introduce new accounts. Town & Country now has a Super Term Share guaranteeing 9.25 per cent above the ordinary rate for three years; the Anglia has a High Income Bond guaran-

teeing 2 per cent extra for one year.

Other societies have increased the rate of interest by more than the suggested 0.75 per cent. Bradford & Bingley has added 1 per cent to the Premium Access (10 per cent) and High Income (10.25 per cent) accounts; Bristol & West has improved the Bristol Plus account by the same amount to 9.5 per cent.

PICK THE RIGHT RATE FOR YOUR MONEY

FOR INVESTMENTS OF £5,000 AND ABOVE

ANNUAL INTEREST	COMPOUNDED ANNUAL RATE	GROSS EQUIVALENT
10.03% NET	10.50% WITH INTEREST ADDED MONTHLY	15.01%

FOR INVESTMENTS OF £1,000 AND ABOVE

ANNUAL INTEREST	GROSS EQUIVALENT
10.03% NET	14.33%

GOLD STAR. INSTANT ACCESS. NO PENALTIES.

Invest £5,000 and above in Gold Star with Monthly interest and earn 10.50% compounded annual rate when full monthly interest is added to the account. Invest £1,000 and more and earn an attractive rate of 10.03% net annual interest. Call at your nearest branch or write to: Gateway Building Society, FREEPOST Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2BR. Stay one jump ahead.

GATEWAY BUILDING SOCIETY

Branches below £1,000 pay 8.25% net = 11.75% gross equivalent. Basic rate Income tax paid. Gross equivalent for best rate for payers. Rates and terms may vary. Gateway Building Society, Administrative Centre, Gateway House, Durrington Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2QY. Established 1854. Assets over £1,350 million. Receipts over £50 million. Insure Status. Member of the Building Societies Association & Investors' Protection Scheme. District Offices and Agents throughout the UK.

3 UNIT TRUSTS

Most successful investors start with a clear idea of whether they want income or growth or a balance between the two. Individual unit trusts can meet each of these requirements, but the problem is knowing which to choose from over seven hundred unit trusts.

Before making an investment in a unit trust you should expect the managers to tell you how well it has performed over the long term. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective. New funds or funds which suffer a change of management are more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record.

We are currently offering three M&G Funds which satisfy the three requirements of income, growth, or a balance between the two. Each has a performance record demonstrating the success of M&G's investment policy over many years. As an incentive we are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more in any one Fund.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

An investor of £10,000 at the Fund's launch in May 1964 has seen his income after basic-rate tax grow from £396 in the first full year to £2,018 in 1984.

By contrast, a building society investor's annual income has fluctuated, rising from £536 in 1965 to £1,200 in 1980 and then falling back to £853 by 1984. So anyone who depended on a building society for income has suffered a cut-back over the past 4 years, whilst Dividend Fund investors continued to enjoy a steadily increasing income.

In addition, the Dividend Fund investor's £10,000 had grown to £54,300 by the end of December 1984 compared with £27,271 from a similar notional investment in the F.T. Industrial Ordinary Index and £10,000 in a building society deposit which, of course, remained unchanged.

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment, because we will continue to make income growth the prime objective. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and the aim is to provide a high and growing return with a yield about 50% higher than that of the F.T. Actuaries All Share Index.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	£396	£536	£10,000	£10,000
1965	463	580	10,000	10,000
1970	828	871	10,000	10,000
1975	1,660	1,200	10,000	10,000
1980	2,018	853	10,000	10,000
1984			54,300	

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are 32% above the average of the rates offered in each year (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend figures are all realisation values.

On 27th March 1985 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Dividend Fund	308-2p	855-0p	5.72%
Recovery Fund	253-8p	301-2p	5.91%
SECOND General	548-2p	1033-8p	4.05%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. An annual charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value — currently 4% — plus VAT is deducted from gross income (currently 4% for Dividend increasing to 4% in September 1985). Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Dividend	Recovery	SECOND
Distributions	15 Jan 20 Feb 15 Feb	15 Jan 20 Feb 15 Feb	15 Jan 20 Feb 15 Feb
Next distribution	15 July 20 Aug 15 Aug	15 July 20 Aug 15 Aug	15 July 20 Aug 15 Aug

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents, rates are available on request. The Trustees for Dividend and Recovery are Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6HQ. Tel: 01-426 4588.

Member of the Unit Trust Association.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched. The table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth over the long term. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	REAL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '68	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,760	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1984	214,720	39,977	52,405	36,769

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an index interest account offering 11% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Fund aims for growth of both capital and income and has a 28-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies, which are kept under constant review.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	REAL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1958	19,534	20,090	11,293	12,483
1965	31,947	26,330	13,482	16,093
1970	47,537	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	81,843	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	200,813	61,600	62,494	49,931
1984	463,879	142,410	81,519	71,938

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an index interest account offering 11% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6HQ. All applications received by 5th April 1985, will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in any one Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued at the price ruling on receipt of this application).

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

	DIVIDEND	RECOVERY	SECOND
Amount paid in	£ -00	£ -00	£ -00
Amount paid in	£ -00	£ -00	£ -00
Amount paid in	£ -00	£ -00	£ -00

TU 361315 M&G

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st January 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,195. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £15,320, an extra £8,724.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers' Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st JANUARY 1985

Amount paid in	£1200	£2400	£3600
M&G Dividend	2,289	7,513	16,705
M&G Recovery	1,913	8,446	22,734
M&G SECOND	2,039	7,282	15,320
F.T. Industrial Ordinary Index	2,160	6,143	11,289
Building Society Savings Account	1,499	3,840	7,195

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts — 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 3%) for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

ALSO, CAPTIONS, PLEASE

1. I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ (min £20) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

SP 361315

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6HQ

If no Fund is circled your plan will be linked to M&G SECOND

AMERICAN & GEN.	INTERNATIONAL
AUSTRALASIAN	JAPAN & GEN.
COMPOUND GROWTH	MIDLAND
DIVIDEND	RECOVERY
GENERAL	SECOND
GOLD	SMALLER COS.

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLMENT FORM

1. Your Bank Branch Code Personal Bank Account No See your cheque book for details

Please pay to National Westminster Bank PLC, 131 Molesworth Street, Chalmersford CH2 0LN. Account No 55713270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SPP/ISS PLAN ACCOUNT) opening Account No (NAME BLANK) the sum of £ on the day of 1985 and continue to pay that amount on the day of each month/quarter/other longer order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

SIGNATURE DATE

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £20) and that I can realise my holding on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE DATE

THE M&G GROUP

POSTAL Shopping GUIDE

ambulance or whatever special travel arrangements are necessary to return home. Very often, all that is needed is a nurse and a couple of extra seats on a scheduled flight.

The financial limits on medical cover in travel insur-

little as \$10,000 to unlimited cover. Ideally, for a holiday in Europe, you should have a policy that should be for a minimum of \$25,000. For other European countries \$50,000 should be better. For the United States, it should be possible to look for a limit of £100,000 in Switzerland, as medical treatment comes under the normal insurance policy, and particularly in the United States, cover of \$250,000 would be desirable. Some of these figures may seem large in a country used to a health service that comes free at the point of use, but remember that you are not insured after all, little point in being a healthy bankrupt for the sake of a few pounds spent on an insurance premium.

Finally, be prepared to pay for the medical treatment yourself, out of your holiday pocket. The insurance company is not going to pay the costs from the insurance company when you get back.

home. Simply flashing an insurance policy at the doctor will not get you "free" treatment. And if you intend taking a form E111 with you, give the DHSS plenty of advance warning; it is not obtainable over the counter.

MAIL ORDER PROTECTION SCHEME
 NOPS is the Newspaper Publishers Association's Mail Order Protection Scheme.

Rarely do you suggest gilt-edged stocks. Is there some reason for this?
J.M.S., Altrincham.
GOVERNMENT stocks are risk investments which should be bought only with professional advice. Since they are traded on the stock market, values fluctuate and

the wrong choice of stock can result in some loss of capital. On occasion we have recommended a proportion of selected gifts in structured portfolios to meet certain requirements. Our analysis indicates that perhaps you do not appreciate the nature and objects of gift investment, and the risk element I would suggest that you have a stockbroker or other financial adviser look over your investments.

Pension rights

I AM 57 and divorced. I worked only 24 years of the ages of 18 and 24. When I entered a pension scheme I was the age of 60? I am worried that my husband may retire early from

Have you got a regular and reliable window cleaner? Is your home's security a worry? That's the reason window treatments have always been a popular choice for homeowners.

Orpington. SINCE you have not paid the necessary contributions, you will not get a full pension. You may be entitled to one-quarter pension if you paid full contributions during the time you were at work, but seven years is about the minimum qualifying period. The contributions paid by your husband between the time you were married and the date of your divorce may

be counted towards some pension for you. Luckily, you have considered your situation in good time. I would suggest that you arrange a visit to your social security office which will be able to produce a record of your contributions and let you know where you stand.

SHAPED

AIR PILLOW
gives real comfort to the user
stops head nodding and
neck and back aching

FREE CALCULATOR
When you apply for this Free Trial offer we will also send you this superb pocket calculator FREE.
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Of course, share prices can go down, as well as up. But we don't want you to risk a penny of your own money until we've proved to you that you will make a profit by acting on our advice.

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In addition to six free issues you can also receive the balance of your first years subscription to SMC for just £72.

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

BBC Symphony Orchestra
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7.10-8.25 am Open University. 8.30 Roobarb. 8.35 Battle of the Planets. 9.0 Saturday Superstore. 12.12 pm Weather News.

12.15 **GRANDSTAND**. Desmond Lynam introduces the Big Race edition from Aintree, with most of the first part of the programme given over to scene-setting stuff on the runners, riders, the course, etc., all leading up to the Grand National itself (3.20). Plus: news (1.0); half-time soccer (3.45); international Rugby Union - live second-half coverage of the Ireland v England match, plus highlights of France v Wales (3.50); final score (4.50).

5.0 **NEWS**. Weather News; regional news magazines.

5.20 **DOCTOR WHO**: Revelation of the Daleks. Part 2. Colin Baker as the Doc, tussling with the oldest foe for the last time before the old-fashioned series goes into its suspended animation. Cee-fax sub-titles.

6.0 **TERRY AND JUNE**. Wine Women and So Long. And talking of suspended animation... Scott, T. Whitfield as the soporific suburbanites. In re-run sitcom.

6.35 **HOOPER**. Former stuntman Hal Needham pays affectionate tribute to his old trade in this jolly, action-packed comedy, made in 1978, with Burl Ives as the world's top daredevil, Jan-Michael Vincent as the young Turk jostling for his crown, plus Sally Field, Brian Keith.

8.10 **DYNASTY**. The Mortgage. Can the Carringtons manage to hang on in the mansion if Blake gets his act together. Kyrle flees her furs and the kitchen cuts down on caviar butties? Mind you, with the household diminishing so fast a bungalow in Boulder might seem a better bet... Cee-fax sub-titles.

9.0 **BERGERAC**. The Company You Keep. Another re-run case for the Jersey cop (John Nettles) with lovely Mel Martin guesting as a disorganised informer. Cee-fax sub-titles.

9.50 **NEWS**. Sport; weather.

10.0 **MATCH OF THE DAY SPECIAL**. Jimmy Hill with the best highlights of two First Division matches, plus a replay of the Grand National.

11.0 **BLACK CHRISTMAS**. Sadistic murderer terrorises inmates of a college sorority house over the Christmas holidays. Olivia Hussey, Kate Mulgrew, Kristy Lee, and a bizarre and unappealing horror yarn. Canadian-made in 1975. 12.40 Weather; close.

Scotland: 10.5-11.5 pm Sportscentre.

Anglia	10.0 No. 73.	10.0 No. 73.	10.0 No. 73.
6.15 As London.	12.15 As London.	12.15 As London.	12.15 As London.
11.30 Chaps.	5.0 Cartoons.	5.0 Cartoons.	5.0 Cartoons.
12.15 As London.	5.0 The Monty.	5.0 The Monty.	5.0 The Monty.
12.25 As London.	5.0 The Price is Right.	5.0 The Price is Right.	5.0 The Price is Right.
12.30 As London.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.
12.35 As London.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.
12.40 As London.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.
12.45 As London.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.
12.50 As London.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.
12.55 As London.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.
1.00 As London.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.
1.05 As London.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.	5.0 T. J. Hooker.
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